



July 7, 2017

## Chardonnay shines as Australia's finest wine

Glasses are being raised to a Margaret River Chardonnay, after being crowned Grand Champion Wine of Show at the Royal Queensland Wine Show (RQWS) Awards at the Brisbane Showgrounds today.

The Xanadu Wines Reserve Chardonnay 2015 has been described by Chief Judge David Bicknell as being "as good as any Chardonnay in the world."

"It's a beautifully balanced wine and it's world class," he said.

"It's no surprise Chardonnay took out the Grand Champion title because the nation's winemakers are doing the variety so well."

The Margaret River wine region in Western Australia continued to turn heads, with the historic Stodart Trophy for Best Young Red of Show going to Deep Woods Estate for their Estate Cabernet Merlot 2015.

This is the first time in recent history a Cabernet Merlot has taken out the trophy, with Shiraz usually dominating.

"This is an exceptional, classic wine," Mr Bicknell said.

"We just couldn't go past this wine - most of the judges voted for it as their first preference.

"With both the Grand Champion and Stodart Trophy, we saw the right varieties grown in the right places and made with sensitivity."

A total of 1,608 wines were received from 217 Australian wineries this year, with the 26 strong panel of expert judges pleased with the high quality of entries.

"Most classes had real highlights and in particular there was real excitement around the alternate red varieties," Mr Bicknell said.

"More winemakers are becoming familiar and better at dealing with these varieties which include Touriga, Malbec and Barbera.

"The quality of these alternate red wines were better than we saw last year and there were multiple standouts."

The public will now have the rare chance to taste their way through the entries, including the trophy winners and new vintage of season, at tonight's Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show (RQFWS) 'Grape Grazing by Night – Celebrating Australian Wine' event.



Tickets to the event have sold out with more than 800 people attending.

Below are the 2017 Trophy winners. To view the full results catalogue please [click here](#).

### 2017 TROPHY AWARD WINNERS

#### THE MALDWYN AND IAN DAVIES BEST SPARKLING OF SHOW

House of Arras - Grand Vintage 2008

#### BEST RIESLING OF SHOW

Peter Lehmann Wines - Wigan Riesling 2015

#### BEST SEMILLON OF SHOW

Mount Pleasant - Lovedale 2009

#### BEST SAUVIGNON BLANC OR SEMILLON & SAUVIGNON BLANC BLEND OF SHOW

Berrigan Wines - Class 19 Cat. No. 8 - Berrigan Mt Benson Sauvignon Blanc 2017

#### THE AO FLEMING BEST CHARDONNAY OF SHOW

Xanadu Wines - Xanadu Reserve Chardonnay 2015

#### BEST PINOT GRIS OF SHOW

Brown Brothers Milawa Vineyard - Devil's Corner Pinot Grigio 2016

#### BEST SINGLE WHITE VARIETAL OF SHOW

Symphony Hill Wines - Symphony Hill Wines Gewurztraminer 2016

#### BEST SWEET WHITE OF SHOW

d'Arenberg - The Noble Botryotinia Fockeliana 2015

#### BEST YOUNG WHITE OF SHOW

Xanadu Wines - Xanadu Reserve Chardonnay 2015

#### BEST MATURE WHITE OF SHOW

Mount Pleasant - Lovedale 2009

#### BEST SINGLE VINEYARD WHITE OF SHOW

Xanadu Wines - Xanadu Reserve Chardonnay 2015

#### RNA BEST WHITE OF SHOW

Xanadu Wines - Xanadu Reserve Chardonnay 2015

#### BEST ROSE OF SHOW

Shingleback - Aficionado Rose 2017



**BEST PINOT NOIR OF SHOW**

Agnew Wines Pty Ltd - Pooles Rock Pinot Noir 2016

**BEST GRENACHE, RED RHONE VARIETAL OR BLENDS OF SHOW**

Shingleback - Red Knot Grenache Shiraz Mourvedre 2016

**THE ALAN COOK MBE TROPHY BEST MERLOT, CABERNET SAUVIGNON OR CABERNETS BLENDS OF SHOW**

Deep Woods Estate - Estate Cabernet Merlot 2015

**THE WINE GUILD OF AUSTRALIA INC (QUEENSLAND) BEST SHIRAZ/CABERNET BLEND OF SHOW**

Bleasdale Vineyards - Wellington Road Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon 2015

**BEST SINGLE RED VARIETAL OF SHOW**

McWilliam's Wines Group - Hanwood 1913 2016

**BEST SHIRAZ OF SHOW**

Brokenwood Wines - 2015 Brokenwood Wines Wade Block 2 Shiraz 2015

**BEST RED BLEND OF SHOW**

Saltram Wine Estate - Saltram Estate Shiraz Tempranillo 2016

**BEST SINGLE VINEYARD RED OF SHOW**

Brokenwood Wines - 2015 Brokenwood Wines Wade Block 2 Shiraz 2015

**RNA BEST RED OF SHOW**

Deep Woods Estate - Estate Cabernet Merlot 2015

**BEST FORTIFIED OF SHOW**

Penfolds Wines - Penfolds Grandfather Rare Tawny NV

**THE COURIER-MAIL BEST QUEENSLAND WINE OF SHOW**

Just Red Wines - Shiraz Viognier 2015

**LENDEASE MOST SUCCESSFUL QUEENSLAND EXHIBITOR OF SHOW**

Symphony Hill Wines

**THE DAN O'CONNOR TROPHY MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR OF SHOW**

Shingleback

**THE STODART TROPHY BEST YOUNG RED OF SHOW**

Deep Woods Estate - Estate Cabernet Merlot 2015

**GRAND CHAMPION WINE OF SHOW TROPHY**

Xanadu Wines - Xanadu Reserve Chardonnay 2015



## Media Release

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