

Media release

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Australia's world beating quality goes all the way

The diversity of Australia's wine offering was highlighted by two very different but equally prestigious international awards this week.

Just two days after a Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon beat hundreds of the world's most expensive wines to claim the benchmark Bordeaux Blend over £10 International Trophy at the **Decanter World Wine Awards**, a Clare Valley Riesling last night was named Great Value Champion White Trophy at the **International Wine Challenge (IWC)**.

"This is a tremendous affirmation that Australia really can be all things to all people," said Wine Australia's Director – UK/Ireland/Europe, Lisa McGovern. "Our excellence runs from everyday informality through to wines that can beat Bordeaux at its own game."

Australia enjoyed a great night at the IWC, claiming the **Great Value Champion White Wine trophy**, awarded to Tim Adams Clare Valley Riesling 2008. This was complemented by Neil McGuigan from Australian Vintage being crowned **White Winemaker of the Year**.

A standing ovation greeted the legendary Peter Lehmann as he collected the IWC's **Lifetime Achievement Award** for his passionate pioneering of the Barossa Valley and his company's outstanding success at the IWC over the past four years.

"In a year when the standard is even higher than usual, these Australian winners are amongst the best of the best from the international wine world," said IWC Director Andrew Reed.

Congratulations also go to Noel Young Wines for winning the **Australia Specialist Merchant Award**, which is sponsored by Wine Australia.

Noel Young Wines lists over 500 Australian wines, from established producers to the new generation of winemakers now making their mark in the UK. Commenting on the award, Noel Young said,

"It is great to be recognised again for our promotion of Australia. We are constantly evolving and strengthening our Australian list, bringing in new regions and older vintages. Whether it's a great value £5.99 Shiraz or a 1991 Clare Valley Cabernet we want to show the strength of Australia."

At Tuesday night's Decanter World Wine Awards, Australia won four International Trophies in the over £10 category. Adelaide Hills Chardonnay and Rutherglen's famous fortified were recognised, as well as the definitive "Australian Dry Red" Shiraz Cabernet blend.

The Bordeaux Blend over £10 International Trophy was won by Fraser Gallop Estate's 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon.

ENDS

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Australian Government

Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation

Notes for editors:

International Wine Challenge

- Australian highlights from the Awards also included: Great Value Champion White Trophy: Tim Adams Riesling 2008, Clare Valley South Australia; White Winemaker of the Year: Neil McGuigan, McGuigan Wine/Australian Vintage; Specialist Merchant of the Year for Australia: Noel Young Wines, www.nywines.co.uk
- Australia beat 40 other countries to come in at the number two spot for both total awards won and leading number of gold medals. Shiraz was the biggest success; taking 16 of the 43 gold medals awarded to Australia.
- This year, more than 370 winemakers, merchants and writers from around the world took part in assessing the 9500 entries in the International Wine Challenge in which up to 1,500 wines are assessed daily.
- Tables of at least four tasters – who are told what style they are judging and can ask about the vintage, country and region of origin – score the wine out of 100. Wines scoring above 85 points are deemed medal-worthy and sent to the second round for further seeding.
- This is the 26th IWC.
- For further information go to www.internationalwinechallenge.com

Decanter World Wine Awards

- Fraser Gallop Estate's 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon was blind tasted by a panel of international judges (including Australia's Huon Hooke) against trophy-winning Cabernet Sauvignon from France, South Africa, Chile and New Zealand to be declared the best Bordeaux Blend Over £10 (\$20 AUD).
- International Trophies were won by Nepenthe's Ithaca Chardonnay 2007 (Chardonnay over £10), Morris Old Premium Liqueur Muscat NV (Fortified Over £10) and Jacob's Creek Johann Shiraz Cabernet 2001 (Red Blend Over £10)
- The competition assessed more than 10,000 wines entered.
- Less than 1% of the 10,000 wines entered won a Trophy and only 2% a gold medal
- The Decanter World Wine Awards (DWWA) Judging Process: The DWWA was launched in 2004 and has been running for six years.
- Each wine is judged within its region of origin so that an expression of terroir is taken into account.
- Each wine is assessed within price brackets to ensure wines are compared like for like.
- Throughout the rigorous judging processes, each wine is tasted by a dedicated panel.
- Gold and Trophy winning wines go on to be tasted at least two more times by further panels.
- For further information go to www.decanter.com