



*Media Release
For immediate distribution*

Australia strikes Gold at International Wine Awards

Australian wines have triumphed in the **trio of international awards** announced at the recent London International Wine Fair. The breadth of fine wines and those of outstanding value have been highlighted by results from the **Decanter World Wine Awards**, the **International Wine Challenge** and the **Sommelier Wine Awards 2009** with Australia taking a total of **82 Gold awards**, plus **Trophies**.

The success story across them all is one of **Australia over-performing** against nearly all other nationalities and of **regionality** shining through with big wins for McLaren Vale Shiraz (especially Shingleback, Fox Creek, Tintara, Wolf Blass) and Clare/Eden Valley Rieslings (Kilikanoon, Wolf Blass, Peter Lehmann Wigan), Yarra Valley Chardonnay, Margaret River Chardonnay and many names taking prizes for Margaret River Cabernets (including Clairault, Evans & Tate, Laurance, Woody Nook).

Lisa McGovern, Director Wine Australia UK/Ireland/Europe said the results are an endorsement of Australia's winemaking excellence across a range of varietals.

"In open competitions such as these, where the wines compete against the best in the world, it is great to see some of our 'Regional Heroes' being recognised with such outstanding wins" said McGovern.

"The wines awarded cover an impressive stretch of the country with the regional diversity of Rieslings, Chardonnays, Cabernet and Shiraz all now being acknowledged. Beyond this we also have wines being put forward for the 'Great Value' trophies and some significant triumphs for interesting blends or the trend-setting wines of Generation Next."

"Also announced on the opening evening of the Wine Fair were the 100 Best Australian Wines by Matthew Jukes, which provided further testament to the triumph of regionality. It's been a very exciting series of results," concluded McGovern.

Full details of the latter can be seen on www.matthewjukes.com

Award highlights include:

Decanter World Wine Awards

www.decanter.com

Wines are judged in tightly managed flights of x12 wines from the country of origin; in recognition and celebration of regional styles and the influence of terroir. Wines are grouped in price bands with those which retail at under £10 competing for best-value trophies. The specialist judging panels and regional chairman are all industry experts with considerable understanding of the country being evaluated.

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- 707 **Australian wines** were tasted of which **75% won medals**, against the competitions total awards in which only 65% of all entries won any placement. Australian wines took 33 Golds, 143 Silvers, 303 Bronzes & 217 Commendations plus 11 Trophies for best example for the category.
- Australia also over performed at the top level with just over 6% of wines attaining Gold or Trophies against the competition average of 2.8% of entries going to these awards.
- **Trophies** were decided by the judging panels comparative tasting of Gold medal-winning wines for each class. The best of each style won.

Australian **White Single Varietal** over £10 Trophy
Tyrrell's Winemakers Selection Vat 1 Semillon 1998
Hunter Valley, New South Wales

Australian **Chardonnay** over £10 Trophy
Nepenthe Ithaca Chardonnay 2007
Adelaide Hills, South Australia, Australia

Australian **Sauvignon Blanc** under £10 Trophy
Nepenthe Sauvignon Blanc 2008
Adelaide Hills, South Australia

Australian **Riesling** over £10 Trophy
McGuigan Earth's Portrait Riesling 2003
Eden Valley, South Australia

Australian **Red Blend** over £10 Trophy
Jacob's Creek Johann Shiraz Cabernet 2001
South Australia

Australian **Red Bordeaux Varietal** under £10 Trophy
Tapestry Cabernet Sauvignon 2007
Mclaren Vale, South Australia

Australian **Red Bordeaux Varietal** over £10 Trophy
Fraser Gallop Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2007
Margaret River, Western Australia

Australian **Red Rhone Varietal** under £10 Trophy
Palandri The Estates Shiraz 2007
Great Southern, Western Australia

Australian **Red Rhone Varietal** over £10 Trophy
Shaw & Smith Shiraz 2007
Adelaide Hills, South Australia

Australian **Fortified** over £10 Trophy
Morris Old Premium Liqueur Muscat NV
Rutherglen, Victoria

Australian **Sweet** over £10 Trophy
Tamar Ridge Kayena Vineyard Botrytis Riesling 2006
Tasmania

Decanter's international trophies are announced later in the year

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International Wine Challenge 2009

www.internationalwinechallenge.com

This year, more than 370 winemakers, merchants and writers from around the world took part in assessing the 9500 entries in the IWC 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.

- **115 medals** were awarded across the board to Australian **Chardonnays**, proving the global standing of this varietal from Australia.
- **Australia beat 40 other countries** to come in at the number two spot for both total awards won and leading number of Golds. We were just pipped to the post by France; 49 golds v Australia at 43.
- Record **Riesling** triumphs in 2009 for Australia with 6 Golds and 74 medals in total but **Shiraz** was the biggest success; taking 16 of the 43 gold medals awarded to Australia
- **Generation Next** wines also took Golds, with colourful new look wines such as 'Ladies who shoot their lunch' and 'The Bandit'.

IWC trophies are announced later in the year

Sommelier Wine Awards

The final list was compiled by 60 sommeliers and wine buyers from across the UK who tasted 1,000 wines. It is the UK's only on-trade competition and is sponsored by Imbibe magazine.

For full details contact; Hannah Tovey at Imbibe, Hannah@imbibemagazine.co.uk

- **Gold List:** x4 wines in the **New World** category;
Penley Phoenix Cabernet 2006 Coonawarra; M3 Vineyard Chardonnay 2007 Shaw & Smith, Adelaide Hills; Howard Park Sauvignon Blanc 2008 Margaret River & Watervale Riesling 2008 Mount Horrocks Clare Valley
- **Varietal Classics 'Australian Shiraz'**; Gold medals to both Geoff Merrill Jacko's Blend Shiraz 2004 McLaren Vale & another win for Shaw & Smith, this time for their Adelaide Hills Shiraz 2006.
- **Critics Choice;** Watervale Riesling 2008 Mount Horrocks Clare Valley

(Ends)

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Notes for editors:

- **Wine Australia** is the name under which the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation, a Government organisation established to provide strategic support to the Australian wine sector, delivers its international marketing programme.

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www.wineaustralia.com/uk

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