



Media release

Saturday, May 21

### Bendigo shiraz takes out top gong at National Wine Show of Australia

A Bendigo shiraz lauded as an unmistakable taste of Australia has taken home the nation's top wine award at the National Wine Show of Australia.

Sutton Grange Winery's 2019 Fairbank Syrah scooped the Prime Minister's Trophy for Champion Wine of Show at the awards presentation dinner in Canberra on Friday May 20, having also picked up the trophies for Best Shiraz and the James Halliday Red Wine of Show at the nation's pinnacle awards event.

National Wine Show Chair of Judges David Bicknell described Sutton Grange's trifecta-winning entry as a wine that couldn't be mistaken as coming from anywhere else but Australia.

"It tastes like the country – like it's grown and made in Australia," Mr Bicknell said. "It has depth of flavour, real aromatic qualities, complexity, length and it's beautifully balanced as well – all the attributes we look for in fine wine. It takes a skilful hand to do that, and also a good vineyard."

The Len Evans Memorial White Wine of Show was awarded to Cherubino's 2020 Margaret River Chardonnay, described by Mr Bicknell as "the zeitgeist of modern Australian chardonnay".

"The chardonnay and Riesling classes were fiercely competitive, and there was palpable excitement among the judges about the quality of the wines being assessed," Mr Bicknell said.

Among the surprises in this year's awards was Mudgee's Robert Stein Winery 2021 Reserve Riesling winning the Best Riesling trophy.

"The Riesling category has traditionally been dominated by the Clare and Eden Valleys," he said. "When we got to the top half-dozen Rieslings there were six different regions at the table – some really beautiful wines – but the Robert Stein won the trophy. Most people don't see Mudgee as an area that's great at Riesling, so I think this win is awesome."

The Red Varietal Trophy was won by South Australia's The Lane Vineyard's 2021 Provenance Cabernet Franc. Mr Bicknell said Australian winemakers are becoming increasingly sophisticated at producing wines from hardier, European-style varieties, suited to the changing Australian climate.

"In the past, there haven't been enough varieties to have their own class, but we've seen some really good wines this year - a whole raft of different varieties. There was The Lane's beautiful Cabernet Franc, Sangiovese, Tempranillo, and a very good Nebbiolo among them. Five golds ended up coming out of the red varieties class."

Despite the significant challenges facing Australian winemakers in the past few years, Mr Bicknell said the National Wine Show results were proof of the industry's resilience.

"The list of winners includes winemakers from all corners of the country, who have done well with all sorts of varieties. Australian wine is in a good place and, despite what the industry has faced, you could argue it's getting better. We're adapting, and we're doing it in clever ways."

Full list of National Wine Show of Australia 2021\* winners:

Wine of Show: Prime Minister's Trophy for Champion Wine of Show  
Sutton Grange Winery  
2019 Fairbank Syrah

James Halliday Red Wine of Show  
Sutton Grange Winery  
2019 Fairbank Syrah

Len Evans Memorial White Wine of Show  
Cherubino  
2020 Margaret River Chardonnay

White Wine Trophies:

Pinot Gris/Grigio Trophy  
Longview  
2021 Queenie Pinot Grigio

Riesling Trophy  
Robert Stein Winery  
2021 Reserve Riesling

Semillon Trophy  
Briar Ridge  
2013 Stockhausen Signature Semillon

Sauvignon Blanc Trophy  
Sidewood  
2020 Mappinga Fume Blanc

Chardonnay Trophy  
Cherubino  
2020 Margaret River Chardonnay

White Varietal Trophy  
Hahndorf Hill  
2021 White Mischief Gruner Veltliner

Blended White Trophy  
Hanging Rock  
2021 The Jim Jim Three Pinot Gris Gewurztraminer Riesling

Red Wine Trophies

Pinot Noir Trophy  
Lowestoft Estate Tasmania  
2020 La Maison Pinot Noir

Grenache Trophy  
Krondorf  
2020 Founder's View Barossa Grenache

Shiraz Trophy  
Sutton Grange Winery  
2019 Fairbank Syrah

Cabernet Sauvignon Trophy  
Xanadu  
2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

Red Varietal Trophy  
The Lane Vineyard  
2021 Provenance Cabernet Franc

Grenache Blends Trophy  
St Hugo  
2020 Barossa Grenache Shiraz Mataro

Shiraz Blends Trophy  
Deep Woods Estate  
2020 Shiraz et al

Cabernet Blends Trophy  
Bleasdale Vineyards  
2019 Frank Potts Cabernet Sauvignon Malbec Merlot Petit Verdot

Alternate Red Blends Trophy  
De Bortoli Wines  
2020 Villages Tempranillo Touriga

Other Trophies:

Sparkling Wine Trophy  
B Seppelt & Sons Limited  
2015 Seppelt Salinger Vintage Cuvee

Sweet White Trophy  
De Bortoli Wines  
2018 Deen Vat 5 Botrytis Semillon

Rose Trophy  
Xanadu  
2021 DJL Shiraz Graciano Rose`

Fortified Trophy  
Morris Wines  
NV Old Premium Topaque

*\*The Friday, May 20 awards were the delayed 2021 National Wine Show of Australia*  
More: [www.nationalwineshow.com.au](http://www.nationalwineshow.com.au)

Interviews with National Wine Show representatives available.

Media contact  
Michelle Rowe  
[michelle@pitchperfectmedia.com.au](mailto:michelle@pitchperfectmedia.com.au) / 0400 003 852