

MACEDON RANGES COOL CLIMATE WINES ACHIEVE RECORD WINE EXHIBITION ENTRIES

The thirteenth annual Macedon Ranges Wine Exhibition has concluded in Woodend (on Saturday evening 23 September) with further recognition accorded to the cool climate wines which are produced from the region.

Noted wine judges, chair James Halliday, Lester Jesberg and Nick Bulleid with a panel of associate judges, put the record entry of 127 wines submitted by 37 local district wines under evaluation in five separate classes for Sparkling wines, White Varieties other than Chardonnay, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Other Red Varieties with thirteen wines judged as achieving the Gold Medal standard

Another fifty one wines achieved Silver and Bronze medals.

Six of the Gold Medal wines went on to win the major Trophies of the Exhibition including:-

- The Vinvicta Products Trophy for the Best Sparkling Wine awarded to the Hanging Rock Macedon Cuvee X1.
- The Glen Erin Vineyard Retreat Trophy for the best white variety or blend other than Chardonnay was gained by the Zig Zag Road Riesling 2005.
- The Portavin Estate Bottlers Trophy for the Best Chardonnay was taken out by the Knight's Granite Hills Chardonnay 2004.
- The Best Pinot Noir Trophy sponsored by Wallace Farm Supplies went to the Portree Vineyard Pinot Noir 2003
- With the Lancefield Hardware Trophy for the Best Shiraz won by the Metcalfe Valley Shiraz 2004.
- The Longfellow Insurance Brokers Trophy for the Best Red variety or blend other than Pinot Noir or Shiraz was taken out by the Morganfield Cabernet Sauvignon 2004.
- The Macedon Ranges Shire Trophy for the Public Choice as Best Wine of the Exhibition based on votes counted at the Exhibition Dinner went to the Curly Flat 2004 Chardonnay that also achieved a God Medal in its class.
- The coveted Laurie Williams Trophy for the Best Wine of the Exhibition as selected by the judging panel also was taken out by the Knight's Granite Hills 2004 Chardonnay.

This Trophy recognises the contribution of the late Laurie Williams regarded as the founder of modern day viticulture in the Macedon Ranges GI region.

Commenting on the results judging panel chair James Halliday who has headed the panel for the last seven years and is now to step down, said that the grape growing and winemaking skills of the region are headed onwards and upwards.

He noted that the Chardonnay class alone had produced five Gold Medal standard wines with a consistent and strongly expressed regional style.

The Pinot class was also not far behind although some potentially excellent wines reflected excessive oak.

The Exhibition Dinner held in Woodend was attended by 120 members of the Macedon Ranges wine community.

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