



Thursday, 9 August

South Australia's Scarpantoni takes home the wine industry's most prestigious trophy

For the third consecutive year, a South Australian wine has taken home the **Jimmy Watson Memorial Trophy**, the most eagerly sought wine award in Australia. Awarded annually to the producer of the best one-year-old dry red wine in the Royal Melbourne Wine Show, the Jimmy Watson Memorial Trophy went to McLaren Vale's Scarpantoni Estate Wines for its 2006 Brothers Block Cabernet Sauvignon.

At the presentation dinner, hosted by the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria (RAS) at Sofitel Melbourne, Michael and Filippo Scarpantoni, were presented the prestigious trophy by Jimmy Watson's son Allan Watson.

The winning wine – which was described by judges as a luscious, full-bodied red, grown on Ironstone soil and aged in French oak – took the prize from tough competition, with nearly 800 wines vying for the trophy. This year for the first time the 15 final nominations for the Jimmy Watson Memorial Trophy were announced prior to the presentation dinner.

Originating from the Abruzzi region of central Italy on the Adriatic coast, Domenico Scarpantoni immigrated to Australia in 1952, travelling and working around the country before deciding to settle in the McLaren Vale region. In 1979, the winery was built with the aid of his wife Paula and two sons, Michael and Filippo. Over the past two decades there have been major expansions to the family-run estate.

Celebrating the State Government's 10th anniversary of involvement with the awards, the **Premier's Gold Trophy** for the best Victorian wine in show, was presented by the Premier of Victoria, the Honourable John Brumby to the 2005 Mclvor Estate Shiraz, from Tooborac, in the Heathcote wine region. The Premier's Gold Trophy rotates between red, white and fortified wines each year. For the first time this year, the four finalists were announced prior to the awards ceremony.

Maintaining its commitment to the development of the wine industry, the Royal Melbourne Wine Show this year introduced two new classes of white wine and a single vineyard class to the 2007 award categories. The inaugural new **Single Vineyard** class, acknowledging wine makers producing handcrafted wines, was awarded to Giant Steps for its 2005 Sexton Vineyard Chardonnay. The prize-winning vineyard – which was formerly a horse stud – is located on the slopes of Victoria's Yarra Valley.

"The Royal Melbourne Wine Show is Australia's most comprehensive, rigorous and prestigious wine show and the annual awards are recognised by the wine producers as an important competition in which to benchmark their produce," said Stephen Shelperdine, AM, Chairman of the Royal Melbourne Wine Show. "The judges this year assessed over a two week period more than 3,845 entries from more than 490 wineries, across 79 individual classes of wines."

The judging panel included international judge, US wine writer Josh Reynolds – who spent two weeks judging and touring the wine regions of Victoria.

On the evening, 20 of the 21 awards were presented – as a winner was not selected for the National Liquor News Trophy for the best sauvignon blanc open section. At the event, there were a number of multiple winners.

Peter Lehmann Wines from the Barossa Valley triumphed with four prizes on the night including the Acqua Panna Trophy for the Best Riesling Open Section, the Cellar Door Pass Trophy for the best Semillon open section, the Wine Society Trophy for the best red wine in 2002 and older section, and the Douglas Seabrook Memorial Trophy for the best white wine in 2002 and older section.

Hardy Wine Company also took home four awards including the Sofitel Melbourne Trophy for the Best Chardonnay open section, the National Storage Wine Cellars Trophy for the Best Sparkling White Wine in Show, The A & G Engineering Trophy for the Best Cabernet Sauvignon open section, and the Labelmakers Group Trophy for the Best Pinot Noir open section.

Victoria's Morris Wines took home two awards on the night, including the Francois De Castella Trophy for the most successful Victorian wine in Show and the trophy for the best fortified wine in show.

Following a gruelling judging period, Chris Pfeiffer, Chairman of Judges, Royal Melbourne Wine Show confirmed that the necessary audits were undertaken before deciding on the winners.

"In line with the ASVO recommendations on wine show auditing, we recently carried out the necessary audit, which included comparative tasting against the original samples sent in and physical visits to selected wineries, before announcing the awards," said Mr Pfeiffer.

"The Royal Melbourne Wine Show again this year attracted an impressive array of wines for judging and the judges, as always, faced a hard task to decide on the winners for the awards."

The Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria this year continued its leadership and commitment to the improvement of standards in Australian wine show judging by retaining the two-stage judging system. The RAS introduced the innovative system last year, which allows judges to evaluate the wines entered in the Show in a much more effective manner – a move widely applauded by both judges and the wine community.

ENDS

(List of all Royal Melbourne Wine Show trophy winners - 2007 on following page)

For more information visit: www.wineshow.com.au

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| Trophy | Brand And Name | Exhibitor | Vintage | State |
|---|---|--------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| The JIMMY WATSON MEMORIAL TROPHY | Scarpantoni Estate Wines Brothers Block Cabernet Sauvignon | Scarpantoni Estate Wines | 2006 | SA |
| The PREMIER'S GOLD TROPHY FOR VICTORIAN WINE | Mclvor Estate Shiraz | Mclvor Estate | 2005 | VIC |
| THE SINGLE VINEYARD TROPHY – CLASS 1 | Giant Steps Sexton Vineyard Chardonnay | Giant Steps | 2005 | VIC |
| BEST FORTIFIED WINE IN SHOW - CLASSES 57-64 | Morris Rare Liqueur Muscat | Morris Wines | NV | VIC |
| BEST WHITE WINE OPEN SECTION - CLASSES 28-36 | Knappstein Ackland Yard Riesling | Knappstein Wines | 2006 | SA |
| BEST RIESLING OPEN SECTION - CLASSES 28 & 37 | Reserve Riesling | Peter Lehmann Wines | 2003 | SA |
| BEST CHARDONNAY OPEN SECTION - CLASSES 30 & 39 | Eileen Hardy Chardonnay | Hardy Wine Company | 2005 | SA |
| BEST SEMILLON OPEN SECTION - CLASSES 31 & 40 | Reserve Semillon | Peter Lehmann Wines | 2003 | SA |
| BEST OTHER VARIETIES OPEN SECTION - CLASSES 34 & 42 | Zilzie Viognier | Zilzie Wines Pty Ltd | 2005 | VIC |
| BEST CABERNET SAUVIGNON OPEN SECTION - CLASSES 45 & 50 | Houghton Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon | Houghton Wines | 2004 | WA |
| BEST SHIRAZ OPEN SECTION - CLASSES 46 & 51 | Hugo Shiraz | Hugo Wines Pty Ltd | 2005 | SA |
| BEST PINOT NOIR OPEN SECTION - CLASSES 47 & 52 | Bay of Fires Tigress Pinot Noir | Bay of Fires | 2005 | TAS |
| BEST MERLOT OPEN SECTION - CLASSES 48 & 53 | Capel Vale Wines Merlot | Capel Vale Wines | 2005 | WA |
| BEST RED WINE IN 2002 & OLDER SECTION - CLASS 55 | Mentor Cabernet Merlot Shiraz Malbec | Peter Lehmann Wines | 2002 | SA |
| BEST WHITE WINE IN 2002 & OLDER SECTION - CLASS 56 | Reserve Riesling | Peter Lehmann Wines | 2002 | SA |
| BEST COMMERCIAL WHITE - CLASSES 67-71 | Ingoldby Chardonnay | Ingoldby | 2006 | SA |
| BEST COMMERCIAL RED - CLASSES 73-75 | Pepperjack Cabernet Sauvignon | W. Salter & Son | 2005 | SA |
| BEST SPARKLING WHITE WINE IN SHOW - CLASSES 72, 76 & 77 | Starvedog Lane Chardonnay Pinot Noir Pinot Meunier | Starvedog Lane | 2004 | SA |
| BEST SPARKLING RED - CLASS 79 | Vintage Show Shiraz | Rumball Sparkling Wines | 1997 | SA |
| The FRANCOIS DE CASTELLA TROPHY for most successful Victorian wine in Show. | Morris Wines | | | VIC |