



AUSTRALIA'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS WINE SHOW REVEALS TROPHY WINNERS

17 November 2008

A Western Australian winery has taken out the **2008 Jimmy Watson Memorial Trophy**, the most eagerly sought after wine award in Australia from a tough field of more than 660 entries at the Royal Melbourne Wine Show.

Awarded annually to the producer of the best one-year-old dry red wine, the trophy went to Flametree Wines from the Margaret River region for its Flametree Cabernet Merlot 2007.

Winery owners Jeremy and Daniella Gordon were presented with the prestigious trophy by Jimmy Watson's grandsons, Simon and Nigel Watson, at a gala dinner hosted by the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria (RASV) at Hilton on the Park in Melbourne.

South Australia once again dominated the Royal Melbourne Wine Show trophy winners taking out eleven of the 21 trophies awarded, with five winners hailing from Victoria, three from New South Wales and two from Western Australia.

Celebrating the State Government's 11th anniversary of involvement with the awards, the **Premier's Gold Trophy** for the best Victorian white wine in show, was presented by the Hon. Jacinta Allan, Minister for Regional and Rural Development to B Seppelt & Sons for its Seppelt Jaluka Chardonnay 2006, which was produced in Drumburg, Victoria. The Premier's Gold Trophy rotates between red, white and fortified wines each year.

The judging was overseen by the newly appointed Chairman of Judges, Steve Webber.

"We were thrilled with the level of entrants in this year's Royal Melbourne Wine Show and impressed by the wide variety of wine entered from all across Australia. The future of the Australian Wine Industry is looking extremely positive " said Mr Webber.

With its popularity growing over the past few years, Rose was this year's feature wine and the Trophy for the Best Rose – Light Drinking Red – was awarded to the Yalumba Wine Company for its Yalumba Y Series Sangiovese Rose 2008 out of a field of more than 90 entries.

The Single Vineyard category was again a feature of the Royal Melbourne Wine Show this year, forming an important part of the premium sector of the Australian wine industry. Last year the Single Vineyard included only Chardonnay, however this year both Pinot Noir and Shiraz classes were added.

This year, the Single Vineyard Trophy was won by New South Wales winery, Swinging Bridge Estate for its Swinging Bridge Cowra Chardonnay 2007.

With a commitment to development and recognising varietal trends in the wine industry, the Royal Melbourne Wine Show introduced an exciting new category this year - Wines with Character, Charm and Interest in the \$15-\$25 class - to the award categories in 2008.

"The category was introduced in response to a growing trend from both our domestic and international markets

looking for wine with more charm and character,” said Mr Webber.

“We expect this new category will encourage local winemakers to produce more adventurous, light to medium bodied wines that possess a distinct point of difference.”

The inaugural trophies for Wines with Character, Charm and Interest in the \$15-\$25 class were awarded to Tyrell's Vineyard Pty Ltd from the Hunter Valley for its Stevens Semillon 2004 White Wine and the Brackenwood Vineyard from the Adelaide Hills for its MC Syrah 2007 Red Wine.

Included in the high profile judging panel were international judges, Debra E Meiburg MW and Sam Harrop MW, two of only 253 people in the world who are qualified Masters of Wine.

Formerly a wine professor, Debra E Meiburg of Hong Kong is a Qualified Wine Judge and Wine Educator having judged wine shows on four continents. In 2007, Debra was voted as the Most Influential Wine Journalist in Hong Kong by 500 members of the wine trade.

Sam Harrop MW is a leading consultant winemaker from London. He has worked as a wine buyer for influential retailers and runs his own boutique wine making operation in France. Sam is one of only 22 people to receive the Tim Derouet Award for outstanding performance since it was founded in 1976.

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2008 TROPHY WINNERS

The **JIMMY WATSON MEMORIAL TROPHY** for the Best Red Wine in the 2007 Vintage Year

Flametree Wines: Flametree Cabernet Merlot 2007 Class: 28
Exhibit: 43

The **PREMIER'S GOLD TROPHY FOR VICTORIAN WINE** for the Best Victorian White Wine in Show

B Seppelt & Sons: Seppelt Jaluka Chardonnay 2006 Class: 32
Exhibit: 15

The **FRANCOIS DE CASTELLA TROPHY** for the Most Successful Victorian Exhibitor in Show, presented by the Victorian Wine Industry Association.

Morris Wines

The **VISY SINGLE VINEYARD TROPHY** – Classes 1 to 3

Swinging Bridge Estate: Swinging Bridge Chardonnay 2007 Class: 1
Exhibit: 24

TROPHY for the Best Fortified Wine In Show - Classes 57 to 73

Morris Wines: Morris Old Premium Liqueur Muscat NV Class: 73
Exhibit: 1

The **KUBOTA TROPHY** for the Best 2008 White Wine - Classes 4 to 12

Grant Burge Wines: Grant Burge Thorn Eden Valley Riesling 2008 Class: 4
Exhibit: 93

TROPHY for the Best Rose - Light Drinking Red - Classes 13 & 14

Yalumba Wine Company: Yalumba Y Series Sangiovese Rose 2008 Class: 13
Exhibit: 53

The **ACQUA PANNA TROPHY** for the Best Riesling - Classes 15 & 31

Leasingham: Leasingham Classic Clare Riesling 2005 Class: 31
Exhibit: 3

The **PORTAVIN TROPHY** for the Best Chardonnay - Classes 16 & 32

Wolf Blass Wines Pty Ltd: Wolf Blass White Label Chardonnay 2006 Class: 32
Exhibit: 18

The **NATIONAL LIQUOR NEWS TROPHY** for the Best Semillon - Class 33

Tyrrell's Vineyards Pty Ltd: HVD Semillon 2005 Class: 33
Exhibit: 13

TROPHY for the Best Other Varieties White - Classes 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 & 34

Australian Vintage Ltd: McGuigan Bin 9000 Semillon 2007 Class: 17
Exhibit: 34

TROPHY for the Best Sweet White Dessert Wine - Classes 22 & 35

Josef Chromy Wines: Josef Chromy Botrytis Riesling 2007 Class: 22
Exhibit: 2

2008 TROPHY WINNERS

The **A & G ENGINEERING TROPHY** for the Best Cabernet Sauvignon - Class 36

Chateau Reynella: Chateau Reynella Cabernet 2006 Class: 36
Exhibit: 136

The **WINE ARK TROPHY** for the Best Shiraz - Class 37

Paringa Estate: Estate Shiraz 2006 Class: 37
Exhibit: 218

TROPHY for the Best Pinot Noir - Class 38

Sticks Yarra Valley: Sticks Select Pinot Noir 2006 Class: 38
Exhibit: 20

The **MH NEW ZEALAND TROPHY** for the Best Merlot - Class 39

No Trophy Awarded

TROPHY for the Best Other Varieties Red - Classes 40 to 43

Starvedog Lane: Starvedog Lane Shiraz Viognier 2006 Class: 43
Exhibit: 38

The **WINE SOCIETY TROPHY** for the Best Red Wine 2004 & Older - Classes 45 & 46

Hardy Wine Company: Hardys Thomas Hardy Cabernet Sauvignon 2004 Class: 46
Exhibit: 14

The **DOUGLAS SEABROOK TROPHY** for the Best White Wine 2004 & Older - Class 44

Peter Lehmann Wines: Wigan Riesling 2003 Class: 44
Exhibit: 19

The **VINTAGE CELLARS TROPHY** for the Best \$15 To \$25 White Wine - Classes 47 & 48

Tyrrell's Vineyards Pty Ltd: Stevens Semillon 2004
Exhibit: 30

Class: 47

The **RURAL FINANCE TROPHY** for the Best \$15 To \$25 Red Wine - Classes 49 to 51

Brackenwood Vineyard: Brackenwood Vineyard MC Syrah 2007
Exhibit: 26

Class: 49

The **AMORIM CORK TROPHY** for the Best Sparkling White / Rose Wine - Classes 52 to 55

Coldstream Hills: Coldstream Sparkling Pinot Noir Chardonnay 2004
Exhibit: 9

Class: 53

The **KILCHURN WINES TROPHY** for the Best Sparkling Red - Class 56

No Trophy Awarded

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