

## Australia showcases its outstanding diversity at the Decanter World Wine Awards *Country sits 3<sup>rd</sup> on the global leader board*

The 2019 Decanter World Wine Awards, the world's largest wine competition, sampled and judged close to 17,000 wines, entered from 57 different countries. The scale of this event emphasises the global appeal and highlights the prestige attached to receiving a coveted Decanter Medal. Wine lovers will rejoice in the knowledge that more medals have been awarded this year, continuing the trend of improving wine quality and the broader range of regions now producing wine.

During the week-long event, over 280 of the world's top wine experts tasted and debated the merits of each bottle entered. Only the top 50 were awarded the highly sought-after accolade of "Best in Show" of which Australian wines collected six of these placing them 3<sup>rd</sup> on the global leaderboard behind France and Spain.

From Australia's unsung hero, Hunter Valley Semillon to the iconic fortified Muscat from Rutherglen, Australia showcased the significant diversity of the country's regions throughout the awards. The Best in Show wines hailed from a range of distinct regions; Clare Valley, Tasmania, Hunter Valley, McLaren Vale and Rutherglen.

The **Kilikanoon Attunga 1865 Shiraz 2014** from the Clare Valley, **Dawson James Chardonnay 2015** from Derwent Valley in Tasmania, **Brokenwood Graveyard Vineyard Shiraz 2017** from the Hunter Valley, **Shingleback "The Gate" Shiraz 2017** from the McLaren Vale, **McGuigan Bin 9000 Semillon 2007** from the Hunter Valley and **Campbells Rare Merchant Prince NV Rutherglen Muscat** were the winners of the esteemed Best in Show.

Out of its 930 entries and in addition to its six Best in Show accolades, Australia was awarded a massive 16 Platinum medals, 51 Gold medals and 289 Silver medals.

Western Australia's Margaret River was the top performing region, taking the most medals in Australia of which the **Vasse Felix Heytesbury Chardonnay** was awarded a Platinum medal, scoring an impressive 98 points.

Australian Michael Hill Smith Co-chaired the awards. Significantly, Hill Smith became the first Australian to pass the rigorous Master of Wine examination winning the inaugural Madame Bollinger Tasting Medal the same year. Michael overseas the entire competition alongside Co-chairs Andrew Jefford and Sarah Jane Evans MW, while Australia is Chaired by esteemed Australian wine critic and writer Huon Hook as well as renowned UK wine critic Anthony Rose.

Michael Hill Smith comments "2019 has yet again seen some exciting wines with revelations coming out of Greece, Madeira and China. The Decanter World Wine Awards really helps producers to raise their profile internationally and for consumers faced with the prospect of such choice; choosing a bottle with a DWWA sticker on it, particularly a Gold or Platinum should reassure them that the wine has been through a rigorous judging process, against much competition and you can trust the quality. With more education on wine so widely available nowadays, and plenty more opportunities to travel, now really is the time to have an interest in wine."

### ENDS

For further information on the Decanter World Wine Awards please visit  
<https://www.decanter.com/decanter-awards/>

### Notes to Editors

Launched in 2004, the Decanter World Wine Awards is the world's largest wine competition. The 2019 edition saw a panel of over 280 judges from 30 countries, including 70 Masters of Wine and 23 Master Sommeliers.

In 2018 a new system to award top medalists was introduced – Platinum and Best in Show. Gold medal-winning wines are re-categorised by grape or style and re-tasted by a panel of Regional and Co-Chairs. The wines are judged according to their origin and the judges are aware of countries, regions, sub-regions, grapes, vintages and price bands. The winners are awarded Platinum medals. Those with a price band below £15 are awarded a Best Value Platinum medal. In a separate tasting, the 3 Co-Chairs of the judging panel select the Best in Show from the Platinum winners, and are aware of origins, grape varieties, vintage and price bands. Full details on the judging process can be found on [decanter.com](http://decanter.com).

Please note that the full results of the 2019 competition will be announced on [decanter.com](http://decanter.com) on Tuesday 28 May.

