



## **Announcing 2020 ICC Sydney NSW Wine Awards Gold Medal Winners**

The medal winning wines of the **2020 ICC Sydney NSW Wine Awards** have been revealed today, raising the anticipation of who will be awarded the top trophies and named the best wine in NSW at the 25<sup>th</sup> annual NSW Wine Awards Presentation Luncheon on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020.

Three days of judging took place at International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC Sydney) on 29<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October and saw 16 expert wine judges taste a record number of entrants (904), awarding 65 of these wines with gold medals – full list below.

When talking about the 2020 judging process, Chair of Judges Dave Brookes said, “The calibre of our judges and the rigorous procedures means that each awarded wine really is worth the medal it receives. One of the great pleasures of chairing the NSW Wine Awards is the robust discussions that surround the call-backs and taste-offs and this year, the *Shiraz* and *Semillon* classes, two of the great noble grape varieties of our state, were very strong, highlighting the diversity of style and the great vineyard sites of our famous wine regions.”

“The *Current Vintage Shiraz* class was particularly impressive; out of the 184 shiraz wines judged, 112 received a medal, 17 of which were gold medals! The recent run of outstanding red vintages in NSW was really highlighted in this class. The final line-up of gold medal winners was uniformly outstanding, showcasing the regional and stylistic diversity NSW is rightly famous for.

The *Semillon* classes – both current and mature vintages - were also a pleasure to judge, again proving that no one does this variety better than NSW. 55 wines merited a medal and the best wines showed real purity and very detailed winemaking.”

“As with the last few years, the *Current Alternative Red Varieties* category was also a highlight for judges, with a very high medal strike rate; of the 97 wines judged, 64 won medals. The medals these wines collected shine a light on varieties that probably need to be retitled ‘appropriate’ varieties rather than ‘alternative’, as they are well suited to their climate and region and are very much the future of NSW wine. Corvina, Sangiovese, Mourvèdre, Cabernet Franc, Montepulciano and Nero d’Avola are all bringing home gold medals.”

“*Current Vintage Pinot Noir* was a surprise this year, with 47 wines entered. The number and quality of pinot noir wines has steadily increased over my 4 years of Chairing these Awards and this year was the best yet with plenty of bright, varietal wines showing real promise for this variety in NSW.

The *Current Vintage Red Blends* class was also a hidden gem. Whilst not a massive class, it was filled with wines that showed vibrancy, clever winemaking and high drinkability. Wines to look out for this party season!”

The 65 gold medal finalists will now move on to the next stage of the Awards, the exclusive **2020 ICC Sydney NSW Wine Awards Presentation Luncheon**, where the top 2020 trophy winners will be announced on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at ICC Sydney.

Mark Bourne, President NSW Wine said, “We are so lucky to have ICC Sydney as a partner for these Awards. Not only do they support our industry 365 days a year, with a commitment to a 100% NSW wine list, but with their hard work, detailed EventSafe Operating Framework and stunning, spacious venue, our judging and awards presentation have been able to take place in this challenging year for all.”

***Continued ...***

Geoff Donaghy, CEO ICC Sydney commented, "We are delighted to host the 2020 ICC Sydney NSW Wine Award for a second year in a row, supporting our state's exceptional winemakers during a very difficult year. As a result of the impact of COVID-19, we have sadly not been able to purchase from our local producers this year however, we remain committed to carrying on our legacy of working with the NSW Wine Association to continue our support of both the industry and our winemaker partners."

Guests at the 2020 ICC Sydney NSW Wine Awards Presentation Luncheon will get to taste a large range of this year's award-winning wines, accompanied by a delicious lunch. They will hear details of the judging process from the judges themselves and of course the presentation of which wines have won the 2020 trophies, including the ultimate NSW Governor's Trophy for Best Wine in Show and title of '2020 NSW Wine of the Year'.

You can be amongst the first to hear which wines triumph by booking tickets at <https://2020nswwineawards.eventbrite.com.au>

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**List of gold-medal-winning finalists ~ in alphabetical order by region ...**

Corang Estate 2019 Reserve Selection Shiraz, Canberra District  
Eden Road 2018 The Long Road Shiraz, Canberra District  
Lerida Estate 2019 Shiraz, Canberra District  
Lerida Estate 2019 Cullerin Syrah, Canberra District  
McWilliam's Wines 2018 Eliza Jane Shiraz, Canberra District  
Mount Majura Vineyard 2019 TSG, Canberra District  
Shaw Wines 2016 Reserve Merriman Cabernet Sauvignon, Canberra District  
Angullong 2017 Fossil Hill Shiraz, Viognier, Orange  
Brokenwood 2019 Forest Edge Vineyard Pinot Noir, Orange  
Cassegrain Wines 2019 White Label Shiraz, Central Ranges / Hilltops  
Centennial Vineyards NV Blanc de Blancs, Orange / Southern Highlands  
Cooks Lot 2017 Iconique Barrique Chardonnay, Orange  
Cooks Lot 2019 Allotment 8 Handpicked Shiraz, Orange  
Colmar Estate 2019 Block 6 Riesling, Orange  
Gartelmann Wines 2018 Lisa Chardonnay, Orange  
Gilbert 2019 Riesling RS11, Orange  
Gilbert 2012 Riesling, Orange  
Gilbert 2017 LCR Chardonnay, Orange  
Horner Wines 2019 Family Reserve Organic Shiraz, Marsanne, Orange  
JS Wine 2018 Reserve Cabernet Franc, Orange  
Pepper Tree 2017 'Venus Block' Single Vineyard Chardonnay, Orange  
Philip Shaw Wines 2018 No89 Shiraz, Orange  
Philip Shaw Wines 2019 No8 Pinot Noir, Orange  
Printhie Wines Swift NV Rosé, Orange  
Renzaglia 2018 Bella Luna Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Central Ranges  
Rowlee 2019 Syrah, Orange  
See Saw See Saw 2020 Organic Sauvignon Blanc, Orange  
Eden Road 2019 Gundagai Sangiovese, Gundagai  
Nick Spencer Wines 2019 Medium Dry Red Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, Gundagai / Hilltops  
Ballinaclash 2019 Tom Cabernet Sauvignon, Hilltops  
Ballinaclash 2018 John Shiraz, Hilltops

**Continued ...**

Hungerford Hill 2018 Corvina, Hilltops  
McWilliam's Wines 2018 McWilliam's 1877 Shiraz, Hilltops  
McWilliam's Wines 2019 McWilliam's 480 Shiraz, Hilltops  
Audrey Wilkinson 2019 The Ridge Semillon, Hunter Valley  
Bimbadgen 2020 Palmers Lane Single Vineyard Semillon, Hunter Valley  
Boydell's 2019 Reserve Chardonnay, Hunter Valley  
Briar Ridge 2018 Dairy Hill Single Vineyard Semillon, Hunter Valley  
Briar Ridge 2018 Stockhausen Signature Series Semillon, Hunter Valley  
De Iuliis Wines 2018 LDR Vineyard Shiraz, Touriga Nacional, Hunter Valley  
De Iuliis Wines 2019 LDR Vineyard Shiraz, Touriga Nacional, Hunter Valley  
De Iuliis Wines 2019 Limited Release Shiraz, Hunter Valley  
Hart & Hunter 2019 Single Vineyard Series Oakey Creek Reserve Semillon, Hunter Valley  
Horseshoe Vineyard 2019 Chardonnay, Hunter Valley  
Margan 2019 Saxonvale Mourvedre, Hunter Valley  
Margan 2019 Saxonvale Shiraz, Mourvèdre, Hunter Valley  
McGuigan 2018 Bin 9000 Semillon, Hunter Valley  
Mount Pleasant 2018 High Paddock Shiraz, Hunter Valley  
Mount Pleasant NV Tawny Port Syrah, Hunter Valley  
Pooles Rock 2018 Centenary Block Shiraz, Hunter Valley  
RidgeView Wines 2013 "Generations" Reserve Semillon, Hunter Valley  
Tempus Two 2010 Copper Zenith Semillon, Hunter Valley  
Thomas Wines 2019 Kiss Shiraz, Hunter Valley  
Tintilla Estate 2014 Patriarch Shiraz, Hunter Valley  
Robert Oatley 2018 Montrose Mudjee Black Shiraz, Mudjee  
Calabria 2019 Private Bin Montepulciano, Riverina  
De Bortoli 2017 Noble One Semillon, Riverina  
De Bortoli Deen 2017 Vat 5 Botrytis Semillon, Riverina  
Lillypilly 2017 Noble Blend, Riverina  
McWilliam's Wines 2020 Alternis Nero D'Avola, Riverina  
McWilliam's Wines NV Show Reserve Tawny, Riverina  
Trimboli Family Wines Salvatore 2020 Trebbiano, Riverina  
Coolangatta Estate 2018 Wollstonecraft Semillon, Shoalhaven Coast  
Nick O'Leary 2018 Chardonnay, Tumbarumba  
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