



2020 ICC Sydney NSW Wine Awards Trophy Triumphs

The **2020 ICC Sydney NSW Wine Awards** top trophy results were announced at an exclusive Awards Presentation at ICC Sydney today, Friday 23 October. 18 Trophies were presented to the state's best wines, including the ultimate Trophy - the 'NSW Governor's 2020 Best in Show' - presented by the Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC.

As well as the Governor of NSW, the room was full of VIP guests and the Awards valued supporters, including the NSW Government Department of Primary Industries, Destination NSW, CCL Label, Orora Beverage, Nexia Australia, Riedel, Australia Post, Multi-Color, Charles Sturt University, Finlaysons Lawyers and Canon Australia, alongside winemakers and wine industry professionals from across NSW's 16 wine regions.

Guest enjoyed a delicious lunch and a varied selection of this year's award-winning wines, but obviously the main attraction was hearing which wines would claim the 2020 Trophies. Commenting on this year's winning wines, Chair of Judges Dave Brookes says, "Once again the 2020 New South Wales Trophy winners are a reminder of the diversity and world class wines from wine regions across the length of the state. The judges were tasked with finding the top wines from a string of high-quality vintages, and despite all the challenges 2020 has thrown at us it was very pleasing to see some great wines from this vintage too!"

The winners are ...

Australia Post Trophy for Best Riesling ~ Gilbert 2019 RS11 Riesling (Orange)

[www.gilbertfamilywines.com.au – available now \$36 a bottle]

NSW DPI Trophy for Best Semillon ~ Briar Ridge 2018 Dairy Hill Single Vineyard Semillon (Hunter Valley)

[www.briaridge.com.au – available soon \$35 a bottle]

Charles Sturt University Trophy for Best Sauvignon ~ See Saw 2020 Organic Sauvignon Blanc (Orange)

[www.seesawwine.com – available now \$25 a bottle]

Nexia Australia Trophy for Best Chardonnay ~ Nick O'Leary 2019 Chardonnay (Tumbarumba)

[www.nickolearywines.com.au - available soon \$32 a bottle]

ICC Sydney Trophy for Best Other White Variety ~ Trimboli Family Wines 2020 Salvatore Trebbiano (Riverina)

[www.winepeople.com.au – available now \$18 a bottle]

Australia Post Trophy for Best Pinot Noir ~ Philip Shaw Wines 2019 No.08 Pinot Noir (Orange)

[www.philipshaw.com.au – available now \$45 a bottle]

Finlaysons Trophy for Best Shiraz ~ Lerida Estate 2019 Shiraz (Canberra District)

[www.leridaestate.com.au – available soon \$28 a bottle]

Riedel Trophy for Best Cabernet Sauvignon ~ Ballinaclash 2019 Tom Cabernet Sauvignon (Hilltops)

[www.ballinaclash.com.au – available now \$22 a bottle]

MultiColor Trophy for Best Other Red Variety ~ Margan 2019 Saxonvale Mourvedre (Hunter Valley)

[www.margan.com.au – available soon \$50 a bottle]

Nexia Australia Trophy for Best Red Blend ~ De Iuliis Wines 2018 LDR Vineyard Shiraz, Touriga Nacional (Hunter)

[www.dewine.com.au – available soon \$40 a bottle]

NSW DPI Trophy for Best Organic Wine ~ See Saw 2020 Organic Sauvignon Blanc (Orange)

[www.seesawwine.com – available now \$25 a bottle]

Chair of Judges Trophy for Best Tumbarumba Wine ~ Nick O'Leary 2019 Chardonnay (Tumbarumba)

[www.nickolearywines.com.au – available soon \$32 a bottle]

Continued ...

Canon Trophy for Best Sparkling Wine ~ Printhie Wines NV Swift Rose (Orange)

[www.printhiewines.com.au – available now \$40 a bottle]

ICC Sydney Trophy for Best Sweet Wine ~ Lillypilly 2017 Noble Blend (Riverina)

[www.store.lillypillywines.com.au – available now \$32 a bottle]

ICC Sydney Trophy for Best Fortified ~ Mount Pleasant NV Tawny Port Syrah (Hunter Valley)

[available now, only at cellar door – \$60 a bottle]

Orora Trophy for Best Dry White in Show ~ Briar Ridge 2018 Dairy Hill Single Vineyard Semillon (Hunter)

CCL Trophy for Best Dry Red in Show ~ Lerida Estate 2019 Shiraz (Canberra District)

NSW Governor's Trophy for Best in Show ~ Briar Ridge 2018 Dairy Hill Single Vineyard Semillon (Hunter)

Dave Brookes added, "The best sweet wines were dominated by the luscious wines from the Riverina, which effortlessly balanced sweetness and acid. The Orange wine region again impressed with the precision of its sparkling wines. It is worth noting that this is the 3rd year in a row that Printhie Wines has taken home the Trophy for Best Sparkling! Orange also offered up flavoursome Sauvignon Blancs and Rieslings and beautifully composed Pinot Noirs.

The Hunter surprised no one with the strength of its delicious Semillons and gorgeous medium-bodied Shiraz styles that spoke clearly of their sense of place.

Cabernets from Hilltops impressed the judges, as did the focussed cool-climate Shiraz from Canberra and we were all blown away by the quality of the Chardonnay from Tumbarumba.

The alternative ... or as we like to call them ... the "appropriate" varieties again shone with the overall winning Trebbiano from the Riverina and Mourvedre from the Hunter Valley looking fantastic and making them stand apart from the others!"

"There was much discussion surrounding the wines at the pointy end of the show and this year's 2020 Wine of the Year was awarded to the Briar Ridge 2018 Dairy Hill Semillon - a wine of fine precision, detail and clarity and one that highlights all that is great about the Hunter's iconic and world-renowned grape variety. A beautifully composed wine; delicious at this stage of its evolution and one with a promising cellar life in front of it too."

After 4 years fulfilling the role of Chair of Judges at the NSW Wine Awards, Dave Brookes will be stepping down and it was announced that Nick Spencer will become the 2021 Chair of Judges next year. The NSW Wine Industry Association thanks Dave for all his hard work and dedication over the last 4 years.

As well as the wine awards, another great achievement was recognised on the day, when Minister Michael Johnsen, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture and Member for Upper Hunter, presented the **Graham Gregory Award** for services to the NSW wine industry. The Minister explained that the recipient of this year's award (the 2019 Graham Gregory Award, as the award is retrospective) has had an amazing career within the wine industry, spanning more than 25 years during which he has planted vineyards all over NSW, pioneered new technology, innovations and sustainable vineyard practices, and participated in many industry associations. Whilst he has built a great wine business for himself, he has also established a wonderful place for others to work and over the years has helped bring so many young people into the wine industry. He has constantly given his time and energy to mentor people who are just starting their own wine journey. The winner of the 2019 Graham Gregory Award was Justin Jarrett from See Saw Wines, an organic winery in the Orange wine region.

It is fair to say that Justin had a good day, being recognised by the Graham Gregory Award and winning 2 trophies for his 2020 See Saw Sauvignon Blanc!