



PHIPPS

Embargoed until Thursday 29th November at 22.00 (11.00 UK GMT)

Australia gains highest score in 2019 T1 IWC

Australian winemakers picked up 393 medals in the latest round of the International Wine Challenge (IWC), the world's most influential wine competition. Last year it brought home 256 in total – making this year's haul a 54% increase from last year.

Of these, 22 were Gold medals. Only one country, France, collected more Golds this year with 23.

The **McGuigan Shortlist Chardonnay 2015 from Adelaide Hills** was the joint highest scoring wine in the competition, with 97 points. The other 97-pointer, also made from Chardonnay, was William Fèvre's Chablis Grand Cru Vaudésir 2016 from France's Burgundy region.

Eight of Australia's Gold medals went to wines made from Chardonnay of which the judges "found some truly delicious, savoury, balanced examples", explained IWC co-chair, Oz Clarke.

Another eight Gold went to Shiraz wines. Charles Metcalfe, another IWC co-chair, commented that many of the new Shiraz and Grenache reds coming through the competition were "much fresher and more elegant than the traditional styles".

South Australia came out as the dominant region with 11 Gold medals. New South Wales, Tasmania and Western Australia also fared comparatively well with three apiece. Two Victoria producers, Bellvale Wine and Trentham Estate, were also awarded Gold medals.

Australian Vintage, owner of the McGuigan and Tempus Two brands, was the most highly celebrated with five Gold medals. Taylors Wines, which trades as Wakefield Wines in the Northern Hemisphere, took home two Golds.

The other Gold medal winners from Australia are:

- Zonte's Footstep
- Hahndorf Hill Winery
- Tenafeate Creek Wines (made by former hairdresser Larry Costa, and his son Michael)
- Shingleback Wine
- St Hugo
- Jim Barry Wines
- Sidewood Estates
- Tolpuddle Vineyard
- Winemaking Tasmania
- Freycinet Vineyard
- Victory Point Wines
- Flametree Wines
- Bruce Dukes of Domaine Naturaliste (a regular IWC winner)

The first part of the 2019 International Wine Challenge – Tranche 1 – saw 212 wine experts from 23 countries judging the wines over four days in London. Tranche 2 judging will take place from April 1-11, 2019, with the results announced on May 8.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

The International Wine Challenge

In its 36th year, the International Wine Challenge is accepted as the world's finest and most meticulously judged competition. The IWC assesses every wine 'blind' and judges each for its faithfulness to style, region and vintage. Each medal-winning wine is tasted on at least three separate occasions by a minimum of 12 different judges including Masters of Wine. Awards include medals (Gold, Silver, Bronze) and Commended awards. The IWC is committed to helping consumers discover great wine, and the medals displayed on winning bottles offer a trusted guarantee of quality.

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