



Chardonnay is the star at the 2021 Solitaire Adelaide Hills Wine Show, but
alternative varietals are on the up

*Penfolds wins Best Wine of Show with '2020 Bin A Chardonnay' while Paracombe and Golding
Wines take home Best Producer trophies*

For immediate release, 2 December 2021: The winners in the 2021 Adelaide Hills Wine Show were announced today, demonstrating the region's remarkable diversity, and how the pioneering and boundary-pushing philosophy of its winemakers is coming to fruition.

'Wine of Show' went to **Penfolds 2020 Bin A Chardonnay**, showing how the hero grape of the region is still punching above its weight in terms of global reputation. **Chair of Judges Toby Barlow** commented, "Chardonnay often takes home the top trophy, and this wine is a great example of Adelaide Hills regional strength in this varietal. A world class wine of great complexity and texture."

The Chardonnay was competing for the number one spot with the Best Red Wine, which for the first year ever went to an Italian alternative varietal - the **Protero 2019 Nebbiolo**. This quietly achieving winery was acquired by Steve and Fiona Pannell, of SC Pannell in December 2019. Barlow says, "In select vineyard sites and climates the Adelaide Hills can undoubtedly make great Nebbiolo, but to date it hasn't received the attention that it deserves. It's exciting to see more producers planting Nebbiolo, which hasn't always been appreciated in shows given its lack of bright red colour, savoury flavour profile and robust tannins."

The Adelaide Hills Wine Show first took place in 1997 and recognises and rewards the region's winemakers and grape-growers for the quality of their wines in over 20 categories. The judging team of 16 industry experts reviewed around 630 different wines and winners were announced at a luncheon for members of the Adelaide Hills Wine Region, held at the National Wine Centre on 2 December.

The **Best Producer (fewer than 100 tonnes)** went to **Golding Wines**. Having put their first vintage in bottle with grapes from the family vineyard back in 2002, nearly two decades on, they are producing a portfolio of cool climate traditional Hills varieties, as well as those less typical in Australia, such as Gamay and Savagnin.

Best Producer (over 100 tonnes) this year went to **Paracombe Wines**, which was launched in 1983 when Kathy and Paul Drogemuller bought an old dairy farm following the Ash Wednesday bushfires, and now produces a broad portfolio of wines from aromatic whites through to rich, well-balanced reds.

Barlow comments, “Judging the Adelaide Hills Wine Show is always a pleasure. It was great to have a diverse judging team comprising experts from different fields, such as hospitality, which brings the food environment perspective. As expected, the classics of Chardonnay, Shiraz and Sauvignon Blanc impressed, as well as some stylish Hills sparkling wines”

Other notable wins include **Best Other White** going to **Golding Wines 2021 Single Vineyard Series La Francesa Savagnin**. The show also saw some of the less familiar producers receive recognition, with **Q1908 2021 The Clubhouse Sauvignon Blanc** taking home the trophy for Best Sauvignon Blanc and **Small Victories Wine Co 2021 Pinot Gris** winning the best Pinot Grigio/ Gris category. **Best Sparkling** went to **Mordrelle Wines** for its **2015 Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay**, which also took home the trophy for **Best Single Vineyard wine**.

“This year Sauvignon Blanc really shone, as foreseen by the fantastic conditions of the 2021 vintage,” Barlow continues, “It’s great to see so many producers investing significant resources in the grape and upping their game. There’s been some clever, intricate winemaking which results in Sauvignon Blancs that are layered, and show how good this variety can be, going above and beyond a commercially appealing fruit-forward wine.

“I was also really impressed with the ‘other white’ class, seeing great examples of wines such as Pecorino, Arneis and Savagnin farmed and made skilfully with respect for expression. The Hills is also a regional front-runner in Australian Grüner Veltliner with a stand-alone varietal class in 2021. Pleasingly we are also seeing different styles of wine gaining prominence, such as 2021 young drinkable reds. The continuation of the Hills pioneering wine movement has led to the emergence of new styles in the show, such as a number of younger, approachable red wines that are great served chilled and offer a totally different drinking experience.”

Barlow concludes, “The Adelaide Hills has a pioneering history, winemakers and viticulturists that are open to being that little bit more courageous and push boundaries in pursuit of beautiful wine are now seeing the fruits of their labour. It’s a super exciting time for the region, which has had a tough few years, but it is coming out stronger, producing some phenomenal wines that hold the Hills in good stead for the future.”

Full trophy list

Vinpac **Best Sparkling** - Mordrelle Wines 2015 Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay

Prowine **Best Riesling** - The Lost Watch 2021 Riesling

National Wine Centre **Best Sauvignon Blanc** - Q1908 2021 The Clubhouse Sauvignon Blanc

Hahn Corporation **Best Pinot Gris/Grigio** - Small Victories Wine Co 2021 Pinot Gris

The Haus **Best Grüner Veltliner** - Hahndorf Hill 2021 Gru Grüner Veltliner

Saint Martin **Best Chardonnay** - Penfolds 2020 Bin A Chardonnay

Lallemant **Best Other White** - Golding 2021 Single Vineyard Series La Francesa Savagnin

Glass Print Solutions **Best Rosé** - Wicks Estate 2021 Pinot Rosé

F Miller & Co **Best Pinot Noir** - Sidewood Estate 2020 Pinot Noir

The Edinburgh Cellars **Best Shiraz** - The Lane Vineyard 2019 Heritage Shiraz Viognier

Culture Crop **Best Other Red** - Protero 2019 Nebbiolo

TK Print **Best Tempranillo** - Mt Bera 2018 'Running with the Cows' Tempranillo

Tremeaux Cooperage **Best Cabernet or Blend** - Bendbrook Wines 2018 SL Cabernet Sauvignon

AIG Solutions **Best Museum Wine** - Pike and Joyce 2016 MT Sparkling Chardonnay, Pinot Noir

Duxton **Best Producer <100T** - Golding Wines

Hughes Construction **Best Producer >100T** - Paracombe Wines

Clemens/ GJ East **Best Single Vineyard** - Mordrelle Wines 2015 Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay

Multi Color Corporation **Best Wine of Provenance** - Deviation Road 2018, 2015, 2011 Loftia Vintage Brut

Langley & Co **Best White Wine** - Penfolds 2020 Bin A Chardonnay

Orora Beverages **Best Red Wine** - Protero 2019 Nebbiolo

Solitaire Automotive Group **Best Wine of Show** - Penfolds 2020 Bin A Chardonnay

Award Results

AWAC Scholarship - Chris Parsons, Revenir

AWAC Scholarship - Turon White, The Lane Vineyard

Negociants Committee Award - Kate Laurie, Deviation Road

Chanticleer Award for **Best Cellar Door Person** - Agnes Wyszomirska, The Lane Vineyard

Chanticleer Award for **Best Cellar Door** - Simon Tolley Wines

Notes to Editors

About Adelaide Hills Wine Region

Adelaide Hills Wine Region is a membership body established in 1988 which represents wineries, grape-growers and associated businesses in the Adelaide Hills. A not-for-profit body, it works with members to represent their collective interests, to grow brand equity to ensure long-term sustainability of the grape, wine and tourism industries in the region, and promote the Adelaide Hills brand locally, nationally and worldwide.

For further information go to <https://www.adelaidehillswine.com.au/>

The Adelaide Hills Wine Show

The full list of results can be found [here](#).

2021 Wine Show Judges:

Toby Barlow (Chair of Judges), Treasury Wines

Kerri Thompson, Wines by KT

Glenn Barry, Tonic Wines

Marie Clay, Treasury Wine Estates

Nic Bowen, Howard Park

Andre Bondar, Bondar Wines

Greer Carland, Quiet Mutiny

Trina Smith, Pernod Ricard

Louis Schofield, Hellbound

Sarah Pigeon, Wynns

Associate Wine Show Judges:

Mick Sandercock, Pernod Ricard

Sam Milne, Accolade Wines

Patrick Madden, Mezzanine

Vaite Teriierooitera, David Ridge Wines

Hanying (Violet) Wang, Parade Cellars

Justine Prior, Doreau Australia

For further information and images please contact Victoria Evans: victoria@vepr.com.au/ 0472 511 323