

MEDIA RELEASE - EMBARGO: 3.30PM (SA) FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30

2018 ADELAIDE HILLS SAINT MARTIN WINE SHOW RESULTS

Adelaide Hills shiraz has come of age, and is now one of the region's four pillars of strength, after an excellent showing at this year's Adelaide Hills Wine Show.

The variety has found its place in the Hills with a style that is more and more favoured by consumers and winemakers alike, chair of judges Nick Stock said at the completion of the show.

Shiraz joins sparkling wines, chardonnay and pinot noir as the region's strong suit of varieties and wine styles, Mr Stock said.

"Shiraz and chardonnay, in particular – their natural imprimatur in this region is undeniable."

Shiraz made its case at this year's show with Charlotte Dalton Wines 2017 Love Me Love You Shiraz taking out trophies for Best Shiraz, Best Single Vineyard Wine, and beating all comers to be named Best Wine of Show.

The top wine led a definite bracket creep in the shiraz class medal scores this year compared to last, with seven gold medals awarded this week compared to three last year.

Mr Stock put the variety's strong showing down to a shift in style towards more contemporary wines that are deeply flavoursome, as well as elegantly structured.

"Winemakers are figuring out what great cool climate shiraz/syrah tastes like, and the market has figured that out as well, so there's definitely a lot of momentum in the region for that style of shiraz," Mr Stock says.

"There's a generational change as well – with many younger winemakers whose wines are really vibrant and very exciting," he said.

In his last of three years as chair of judges, and after a 10 year involvement in the region's shows, Mr Stock has been impressed by the growing quality in its wines across all varieties and styles.

"The diversity of excellence you see in the Adelaide Hills show wines is something you don't see in other places," he said.

Out of 592 entries this year, a vast majority from small and family producers, 315 were awarded medals, 56 of them at the highest possible gold level.

Other major winners in the 2018 Adelaide Hills Wine Show judging included Shaw + Smith 2017 Chardonnay, which impressed above a strong field of chardonnays that shows producers know increasingly where to go to source the best fruit, Mr Stock said.

In a further fillip for the variety, Bird in Hand Nest Egg Chardonnay was awarded Best Wine of Provenance judged over three vintages.

The best sparkling of the show was awarded to Mt Lofty Ranges Vineyard 2015 Pinot Noir/Chardonnay, the fruit all sourced from the producer's Lenswood vineyard.

"The Hills are wonderfully capable of making great sparkling wine. Smaller producers are very committed and realise that the best thing for them is to go the extra step to give their wines that extra quality which will bring them notice and make them successful," he said.

In the other "pillar of strength" of the region, the pinot noir class, Sidewood Estate 2017 777 Pinot Noir was judged the winner.

The wine style that has grown the most in numbers in the past three years has been rose, which this year saw Howard Vineyard 2018 Clover Rosé come out on top with back to back wins after taking last year's trophy with a similar wine made from the emerging cabernet franc variety.

ALL THE TROPHY WINNERS

Vinpac trophy for Best Sparkling Wine of Show - Mt Lofty Ranges Vineyard 2015 Pinot Noir, Chardonnay

Atlas Event & Party Hire Best Riesling of Show - Ashton Hills Vineyard 2018 Estate Riesling

National Wine Centre Best Sauvignon Blanc of Show - K1 by Geoff Hardy 2018 Sauvignon Blanc

Prowine Best Chardonnay of Show - Shaw + Smith 2017 M3 Chardonnay

Hahn Corporation Best Pinot Gris or Grigio of Show - La Prova 2018 Pinot Grigio

Glass Print Solutions Best Gruner Veltliner of Show - Pike and Joyce Wines 2018 Separe Gruner Veltliner

APAL Best White Wine Other of Show - Fox Gordon 2017 Princess Fiano

Langley & Co Best Rose of Show - Howard Vineyard 2018 Clover Rosé

F Miller & Co Best Pinot Noir of Show - Sidewood Estate 2017 777 Pinot Noir

Laffort Best Shiraz of Show - Charlotte Dalton Wines 2017 Love me love you Shiraz

RSN Australia Best Cabernet family or Blend of Show - Bendbrook Wines 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon SL

Frame Creative Best Red Wine Other of Show - S.C.Pannell 2016 Nebbiolo

TK Print Best Sweet Wine of Show - d'Arenberg 2017 The Nobel Botryotinia Fuckeliana

Udder Delights Best Museum Wine of Show - La Linea 2011 Vertigo TRKN Riesling

Multi-Colour Corporation Best Wine of Provenance - Bird in Hand Nest Egg Chardonnay

Clemens Technology Australia Best Single Vineyard Wine - Charlotte Dalton Wines 2017 Love me love you Shiraz

Saint Martin Best Wine of Show - Charlotte Dalton Wines 2017 Love me love you Shiraz

Adelaide Hills Convention Centre - Best Producer <100 tonnes Murdoch Hill

Lexus of Adelaide - Best Producer >100 tonnes Pike and Joyce Wines

Avant Garde Award - Murdoch Hill 2018 Happy Pinot Gris

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