MEDIA RELEASE

'UNIQUE SHIRAZ' TRIUMPHS AT ADELAIDE HILLS WINE SHOW

Long established Balhannah winery Shaw + Smith topped the Adelaide Hills Wine Show winners list this week with a wine that judges have described as "a unique Hills Shiraz style."

"It's very exciting to see the Adelaide Hills develop its own unique regional Shiraz over the last ten years," Chairman of Judges Dan Buckle said. "It has deliberately moved away from the power and weight you find in some other regions to a more restrained elegance.

"The Shaw + Smith Shiraz is a finessed, stylish wine made with a gentle hand. It has compelling, perfumed aromatics and a medium bodied structure that makes it a contemporary food-friendly wine.

"It is a very worthy addition to the spectrum of Australian Shiraz and a style that the Adelaide Hills wine community can call their own."

The 2014 Shaw + Smith Shiraz won the trophy for the Best Shiraz of the Show and went on to be awarded Best Wine of the Show and Best Large Producer of the Show.

Dan said there were some other exciting red wines at this year's wine show, including the "delicious and generous" 2015 Murdoch Hill The Surrey Pinot Meunier which won the trophy for the Best Red Wine Other Classes; and the "wonderfully fresh blackcurrant laden" 2013 Nova Vita Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve which was awarded the trophy for Best Cabernet Family or Blend.

He also complimented the Henschke winemaking team on winning the Best Pinot Trophy with its 2014 Henschke Giles Pinot Noir.

"The wine has a wonderful cherry kernel purity, a real lesson in careful viticulture and winemaking in a warm season."

Dan said that while the red wines classes illustrated a growing point of difference for the Hills, the wine show continued to reflect the region's leadership in white wine and sparkling wine.

The 2014 Penfolds Bin A Chardonnay was awarded the trophy for the Best Chardonnay of the Show, "a clear winner in a very strong class," Dan said.

"Penfolds has shown inspiring leadership in developing a modern style of Australian Chardonnay over the last 15 years and the Hills is now recognised as a leading Chardonnay region. This wine was amazingly complex showing superb fruit and very restrained oak."

Wirra Wirra's 2015 Hiding Champion Sauvignon Blanc took out the trophy for this popular Hills class, with a wine that again displayed a distinctive regional style.

"Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc has a unique lime zest and lime blossom flavour, which is very different to New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc," he said. "It is a delicious, fresh style and clearly Wirra Wirra recognises the quality of the fruit that comes out of the Hills."

He was also impressed with the La Prova Pinot Grigio "a distinctive example of what this fast growing varietal should taste like with textured, pear and orchard fruit flavours," and the 2015 Howard Vineyard Riesling, which won best Riesling of the Show with its "lovely length and acidity."

Dan reserved a special comment for the Sparkling class, which was won by the 2013 Deviation Road Loftia Vintage Brut.

"All of the judges were impressed with the exceptional sparkling wines coming out of the Hills," he said. "The wines are superbly balanced and beautifully crafted and the Deviation Road was a unanimous choice from a very strong field. We were also impressed with the growth in sparkling rosé styles which were delicious."

Having judged five consecutive Adelaide Hills Wine Shows (the last three as Chairman of Judges), Dan, who is chief winemaker at Domaine Chandon in the Yarra Valley, said he continues to be a champion of the Adelaide Hills.

"It is one of Australia's most progressive and dynamic regions and with such a diversity of soils and micro-climates it is now challenging itself, from being one of the world's great sparkling, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc regions to a place where some of our most distinctive red wines are being made, especially Shiraz.

"It is certainly the region to watch in the future."

NOTE: 104 wineries exhibited 500 wines in 2015, an increase on 2014. 241 medals were awarded – nearly 50% of entries.

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Adelaide Hills Regional Wine Show 2015 Trophies

Best Wine of the Show
2014 Shaw + Smith Shiraz
Sponsored by Mount Lofty House

Best Sparkling Wine of the Show
2013 Deviation Road Loftia Vintage Brut
Sponsored by Vinpac

Best Riesling of the Show
2015 Howard Vineyard Clover Riesling
Sponsored by White Marquee

Best Sauvignon Blanc of the Show
2015 Wirra Wirra Vineyards Hiding Champion Sauvignon Blanc
Sponsored by National Wine Centre

Best Chardonnay of the Show
2014 Penfolds Bin A Chardonnay
Sponsored by Prowine

Best Pinot Gris/Grigio of the Show
2015 La Prova Pinot Grigio
Sponsored by Hahn Corporation

Best White Wine in Classes other than Classes 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6
2015 SC Pannell Aromatico
Sponsored by Air Liquide

Best Rosé of the Show
2015 Hahndorf Hill Rosé
Sponsored by Adelaide Hills Wine Region

Best Pinot Noir of the Show
2014 Henschke Giles Pinot Noir
S*ponsored by F Miller & Co*

Best Cabernet Family or Blend of the Show
2013 Nova Vita Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon
Sponsored by RSN Australia

Best Shiraz of the Show
2014 Shaw + Smith Shiraz
Sponsored by Laffort

Best Red Wine in Classes other than Classes 9, 10, 11, 12
2015 Murdoch Hill 'The Surrey' Pinot Meunier
Sponsored by Fuller Brand & Communication

ADELAIDE HILLS WINE

Best Sweet Wine of the Show
2015 K1 by Geoff Hardy Autumn Harvest
Sponsored by TK Print

Best Wine in Museum Classes
2011 Mordrelle Adelaide Hills Sparkling
Sponsored by Udder Delights

Best Small Producer of the Show
Bowhouse Vineyard
Sponsored by Geek IT

Best Large Producer of the Show
Shaw + Smith
Sponsored by St Martin