



MARGARET RIVER WINE

Halliday Wine Companion 2017 Edition: Commentary

Overview

Late last week the 17th edition of James Halliday's Wine Companion (HWC) was released and Margaret River is again well represented!

Competition is quite intense for a place in Australia's best of the best and 2017 was no exception to this.

The end result for all wineries who receive such high gradings by such assessment is extremely satisfying, not only for the individuals involved but the region at large as it does set another quality standard in the years ahead.

Again Margaret River also achieved great success in the associated awards winning:

- Best of the Best – Cabernet Sauvignon (99 points and equal first)

Cullen Vanya 2012

- Best of the Best – Cabernet Sauvignon and Family (98 points and equal first)

Cullen Diane Madeline 2014

- Best of the Best – Chardonnay (98 points and equal first)

Leeuwin Estate Art Series 2012

Leeuwin Estate Art Series 2013

Xanadu Stevens Road 2013

- Best of the Best – Rose (96 points and first)

Deep Woods Estate Rose 2015

- Best of the Best – Sauvignon Blanc (97 points and equal first)
Flowstone 2014

 - Best of the Best – Semillon Sauvignon Blends (96 points and equal first)
Cape Mentelle Wallcliffe 2013
Clairault Sauvignon Blanc Semillon 2015
Fraser Gallop Estate Parterre Sauvignon Blanc Semillon 2014
Hay Shed Hill Block 1 Semillon Sauvignon Blanc 2015
Moss Wood Ribbon Vale Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc Semillon 2015

 - Dark Horse of the Year Arlewood Estate

 - Best Value Winery Larry Cherubino Wines

 - Ten of the Best Value Wineries Stella Bella Wines
Xanadu Wines

 - Ten of the Best New Wineries Twinwoods Estate
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In summary for 2017 there are 64 Margaret River wineries (an increase in 4 from 2016) that have made James Halliday's 5 star grade with some new faces; they are in alphabetical order:

Red Name + 5 Red Stars

1. Brookland Valley
2. Burch Family Wines (Howard Park / Madfish)
3. Cape Mentelle
4. Capel Vale
5. Cullen Wines
6. Devil's Lair
7. Leeuwin Estate
8. Moss Wood
9. Vasse Felix
10. Voyager Estate
11. Woodlands Wines

Black Name + 5 Red Stars

1. Amelia Park
2. Ashbrook Estate
3. Chapman Grove
4. Clairault I Streicker
5. Deep Woods
6. Evans & Tate
7. Evoi Wines
8. Fermoy Estate
9. Flametree
10. Flowstone Wines
11. Flying Fish
12. Forester Estate
13. Fraser Gallop Estate
14. Grace Farm
15. Happs
16. Hay Shed Hill
17. Heydon Estate
18. Juniper Estate
19. Larry Cherubino Wines
20. Laurance of Margaret River
21. Lenton Brae
22. Marq Wines
23. McHenry Hohnen Vintners
24. Palmer Wines
25. Pierro
26. Redgate
27. Sandalford
28. Snake & Herring
29. Stella Bella
30. Thompson Estate
31. Umamu Estate
32. Victory Point
33. Wills Domain
34. Windows Estate
35. Wise Wines
36. Woody Nook
37. Xanadu Wines

37 wineries in total; an increase of 5 or 15% from 2016.

Black Name + 5 Black Stars

1. Arlewood Estate
2. Cape Grace
3. Chalice Bridge
4. Credaro Estate
5. Domaine Naturaliste
6. Driftwood Estate
7. Higher Plane
8. House of Cards
9. Knee Deep Wines

10. Night Harvest
11. Peccavi Wines
12. Rosabrook
13. Swings and Roundabouts
14. Twinwoods Estate
15. Warner Glen Estate
16. Watershed Premium Wines

16 wineries with 12 new additions being Arlewood Estate, Chalice Bridge Estate, Credaro Estate, Driftwood Estate, Higher Plane, House of Cards, Knee Deep Wines, Night Harvest, Peccavi Wines, Rosabrook, Swings and Roundabouts and Twinwoods Estate.

'Best of the Best' Varietal Wining Wines

As well as grading wineries James Halliday also rates the Best of the Best by variety and in this Margaret River has again fared very well across a wide spectrum.

With our strong maritime climate Margaret River has achieved substantial results were those varietals best develop although success is quite far reaching into other blends and varieties. These are detailed below but in summary to the ratio of Margaret River geographic indicator (GI) wines to the rest of Australia these are as follows:

RED

Cabernet Sauvignon (> 98 points) 5 Margaret River 3 Rest of Australia = Total 8 with a ratio of 62.55% recorded for Margaret River

99 points

Cullen Wines 2012 Cullen Vanya

98 points

Deep Woods Estate 2013 Deep Woods Estate Grand Selection Wilyabrup
 Domaine Naturaliste 2012 Domaine Naturaliste Morus
 Moss Wood 2012 Moss Wood Wilyabrup Cabernet Sauvignon
 Xanadu 2013 Xanadu Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

**Cabernet and Family
(> 97 points)**

3 Margaret River 8 Rest of Australia = Total 11 with a ratio of 27.3% recorded for Margaret River

98 points

Cullen Wines

2014 Cullen Wines Diana Madeline

97 points

Moss Wood
Vasse Felix

2013 Moss Wood Ribbon Vale Vineyard Wilyabrup Merlot
2012 Vasse Felix Heytesbury

WHITE

**Chardonnay
(> 97 points)**

10 Margaret River 30 Rest of Australia = Total 40 with a ratio of 25.0% recorded for Margaret River

98 points

Leeuwin Estate
Leeuwin Estate
Xanadu

2012 Leeuwin Estate Art Series
2013 Leeuwin Estate Art Series
2013 Xanadu Stevens Road

97 points

Flowstone Wines
Peccavi
Streicker
Vasse Felix
Windows Estate
Xanadu
Xanadu

2013 Flowstone Queen of the Earth
2013 Peccavi Chardonnay
2013 Streicker Ironstone Block Old Vine
2014 Vasse Felix Heytesbury
2014 Windows Estate Chardonnay
2014 Xanadu Stevens Road
2014 Xanadu Reserve

Rose (> 95 points) 3 Margaret River 12 Rest of Australia = Total 15 with a ratio of 20.0% recorded for Margaret River

96 Points

Deep Woods Estate 2015 Deep Woods Estate Rose

95 Points

Laurance 2015 Laurance Rose
Victory Point 2015 Victory Point Rose

Sauvignon Blanc (> 96 points) 1 Margaret River 4 Rest of Australia = Total 5 with a ratio of 20.0% recorded for Margaret River

97 Points

Flowstone Wines 2014 Flowstone

Semillon Sauvignon Blends (> 95 points) 17 Margaret River 2 Rest of Australia = Total 19 with a ratio of 89.5% recorded for Margaret River

96 Points

Cape Mentelle 2013 Cape Mentelle Wallcliffe
Clairault 2015 Clairault Sauvignon Blanc Semillon
Fraser Gallop Estate 2014 Fraser Gallop Estate Parterre Sauvignon Blanc Semillon
Hay Shed Hill 2015 Hay Shed Hill Block 1 Semillon Sauvignon Blanc
Moss Wood 2015 Moss Wood Ribbon Vale Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc Semillon

95 Points

Arlewood Estate 2010 Arlewood Estate Reserve Semillon Sauvignon Blanc
Cowaramup Wines 2014 Cowaramup Reserve Limited edition Semillon Sauvignon Blanc
Cullen Wines 2015 Cullen Mangan Vineyard Semillon Sauvignon Blanc
Evans & Tate 2015 Evans & Tate Metricup Road Semillon Sauvignon Blanc
Fraser Gallop Estate 2015 Fraser Gallop Estate River Semillon Sauvignon Blanc
Happs 2014 Happs Three Hills Eva Marie
Larry Cherubino 2015 Larry Cherubino Pedestal Semillon Sauvignon Blanc
Laurance 2015 Laurance Semillon Sauvignon Blanc
McHenry Hohnen 2015 McHenry Hohnen Rocky Road Semillon Sauvignon Blanc
Pierro 2015 Pierro L.T.C.
Stella Bella 2015 Stella Bella Semillon Sauvignon Blanc
Windows Estate 2015 Windows Estate Grown Semillon Sauvignon Blanc