



MARGARET RIVER WINE

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 18 September 2019

Two Margaret River winners announced in New York last night

Last night two Margaret River women, Vanya Cullen and Ulrika Larsson, were announced winners of the 2019 Australian Women in Wine Awards (AWIWA). They were both at the Ceremony to receive their awards in person.

It was a hat-trick for Vanya Cullen, winning the AWIW Winemaker of the Year, sponsored by Tonnellerie Saint Martin, as she celebrates her 30th year of being the Cullen Senior winemaker, as well as receiving the Halliday Winemaker of the Year last month.

Ulrika Larsson from Clairault Streicker wines was awarded the 2019 AWIW Cellar Door Person of the Year, sponsored by Purple Giraffe.

The event was attended by nearly 40 Australian female wine producers, and the invitation only guest list also included over 100 trade, media and dignitaries.

'I feel honoured, humbled and grateful to win the Winemaker of the Year AWIW 2019 award. Three generations of women, my maternal grandmother Madeline Grace Smith was a suffragette, my mother Diana Madeline a pioneering woman in Margaret River and it's my 30th year at Cullens being senior wine maker. What a year', Vanya Cullen said.

'I feel blessed and grateful to the organisers and judges of the Australian Women in Wine Awards for all their work promoting women in wine in Australia and globally and for the award. Also, to Wine Australia for their contribution. It's a love story of nature, the earth, great wine, family, friends and colleagues. And what a great city to be to win. I am over the moon about it', she said.

After 48 hours of travel to get here, Ulrika Larsson said, 'Standing here in New York City among all the fabulous, strong and influential wine women still feels surreal. To win this award and to be mixing with all these awesome ladies gives me confidence and inspiration to continue doing what I love, working in Cellar Door.'

The event was also live streamed to the Australian Women in Wine Facebook page and watched during breakfast and morning-tea by many across Australia, as well a group in Margaret River at the Margaret River Collective.

Amanda Whiteland, MRWA CEO said, 'It was so fantastic to be here in New York with Vanya, Ulrika and all the other women in wine to celebrate the talent and passion we have in Margaret River'.

'The AWIWA kicks off Wine Australia's largest ever promotion in the USA, which also includes a six-city roadshow, which has 17 Margaret River wineries participating and is expected to attract up to 2,500 American wine trade attendees across New York, Chicago, Miami, Dallas, Los Angeles and San Francisco.'

'This is significant opportunity for Margaret River to increase its position in the USA, the world's largest and most attractive market, and it is great to be here waving the flag', she said.

- ENDS -

About the AWIWA

The Australian Women in Wine Awards – which are owned and operated by The Fabulous Ladies' Wine Society – celebrate and reward the work of women in the Australian wine community, and community leaders who champion equality and fairness for all sexes in the workplace. They are the only awards program for women in wine in the world.

The 2019 AWIWA is the fifth year.

Previous Margaret River winners have included:

- Janine Carter – Voyager Estate - Cellar Door Person of the Year 2018
- Virginia Willcock – Vasse Felix - Winemaker of the Year 2017
- Diana Laurence – Laurence Wines – Champion of Change 2015

For more information on the USA events visit

<https://www.wineaustralia.com/whats-happening/events/aussie-wine-month-2019>

For further information or images contact:

Amanda Whiteland – Chief Executive Officer amanda@margaretriver.wine

The Margaret River Wine Association (MRWA) is the peak body for Margaret River grape growers and winemakers. It was established in the late 1970's as the Margaret River Grape Growers & Winemakers Association and was incorporated in 1982.

The MRWA is an independent, non-profit organisation, financed by its members and additional funding sourced from corporate members, sponsorship and grants. MRWA has more than 165 industry members and 50 associated Grape Grower and Commercial members.