



MEDIA RELEASE

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## King of Australian Cabernet Crowned in World-First Virtual Wine Challenge

The 2018 Xanadu Cabernet Sauvignon has taken the top honours at the 2020 James Halliday Australia Cabernet Challenge, scoring 97 points to claim the top trophy from 364 entries, encompassing 29 Australian wine regions.

In what is believed to be a world first, judging of the 2020 James Halliday Australia Cabernet Challenge presented by Langton's, took place simultaneously in Australia's preeminent Cabernet producing regions, namely Coonawarra in South Australia and Margaret River in Western Australia, with Yarra Valley in Victoria also connecting through virtual means to deliver this single variety wine show with a difference.

A panel of 5 judges each in Margaret River and Coonawarra, tasted close to 200 wines over two days, with a further 40 wines assessed on the third and final day, to determine the regional trophy winners and overall Cabernet Champion in a virtual taste off via Zoom.

Xanadu Senior Winemaker, Glenn Goodall shared his excitement in taking out the prestigious National Award, *"I'm absolutely wrapped! We've always taken enormous pride in our Cabernet Sauvignons, so to be awarded as the Cabernet Challenge Trophy in this year's James Halliday Australian Cabernet Challenge is definitely the highlight of 2020, and a huge achievement for everyone involved at Xanadu, especially our growers."*

According to Goodall the 2018 vintage was a standout in Margaret River with wines of outstanding quality being produced, *"Cabernet Sauvignon loves Margaret River, and there would have been some strong wines in the mix given 2018 was such an amazing vintage here. No doubt, in years to come everyone's 2018 Cabernets will still be the yardstick by which such exceptional vintages are remembered, so to have our 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon recognised like this, amongst so many great Australian producers, is extremely rewarding for the whole Xanadu team,"* he said.

Last night the results of the James Halliday Australian Cabernet Challenge presented by Langton's were announced on Langton's TV [Youtube](#) channel and streamed to [Facebook Live](#). Best of Region awards were presented to five regional winners, before revealing the overall winner in what was a true celebration of the world's most planted and extremely versatile, food-friendly variety.



As presenting partner, Langton's General Manager Jeremy Parham praised the event saying, "We're proud to support the James Halliday Australian Cabernet Challenge. This year in particular, as the team has innovated to overcome so many hurdles in order to deliver this important award. Raising the bar for Australian Cabernet is something from which we all benefit. Congratulations to the team at Xanadu and all of the regional winners."

The 2020 James Halliday Australian Cabernet Challenge Regional Winners are:

#### **Adelaide Hills Best of Region**

Wines by Geoff Hardy

2018 K1 By Geoff Hardy 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon – 95 points

#### **Barossa Valley Best of Region**

Casella Family Brands

2018 Peter Lehmann Wines Masters Mentor Cabernet Sauvignon – 95 points

#### **Coonawarra Best of Region**

Brand's Laira of Coonawarra

2018 Brand's Laira 1968 Vines Cabernet Sauvignon – 96 points

#### **Margaret River Best of Region**

Xanadu Wines

2018 Xanadu Cabernet Sauvignon – 97 points

#### **Yarra Valley Best of Region**

Boat O'Craigo Wines

2018 Boat O'Craigo Braveheart Cabernet Sauvignon – 96 points

The full results are now available to view at [www.australiancabernetchallenge.com.au](http://www.australiancabernetchallenge.com.au)

– ENDS –

**Notes:** Cabernet Sauvignon of all vintages are eligible and judged by region without judges knowing which region they were officiating. Wines achieving a Gold Medal score (95 points and over) were selected to determine the Best of Region wine, then each Regional Winner was judged again for the Trophy.

#### **The 2020 Judges were:**

##### **Coonawarra**

Pete Bissell – Formerly Balnaves of Coonawarra

Jane Ferrari – Independent Wine Consultant,

Baron of Barossa

Andrew Hardy – Parker Coonawarra Estate & Ox Hardy Wines

##### **Margaret River**

Robert Mann – Corymbia

Julian Langworthy – Deep Woods Estate

Courtney Treacher – Accolade Wines

The 2020 Associate Judges were:

**Coonawarra**

Matilda Innes – Ottelia

Lauren Hansen – Penley Estate

**Margaret River**

Emma Farrelly – State Buildings

Lance Parkin – Heafod Glen

**Images**

[Dropbox link](#) to images of Judging

[Dropbox link](#) to images of Xanadu Winemakers and Regional Winner Wines

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**Coonawarra Vignerons, Margaret River Wine and Wine Yarra Valley** are the official/peak wine industry bodies in their respective regions. While each is passionate about their own area, they are thrilled to have the opportunity to work with other premium Australian wine regions.