



HAPPS

MARGARET RIVER

2021 VITICULTURAL EXCELLENCE AWARD



LANGTON'S

MARGARET RIVER WINE SHOW

Past Winners

2020 - Dave Moulton (Cape Mentelle)	2012 - Jaden McLean (Woodlands Wines)
2019 - Ianto Ward (Juniper Estate)	2011 - Bart Maloney (Vasse Felix)
2018 - Steve Martin (Stella Bella Wines)	2010 - James Harris (KarriBindi)
2017 - John Fogarty (Deep Woods Estate)	2009 - Keith Scott (St Margaret's Vineyard)
2016 - Suzie Muntz (Xanadu Wines)	2008 - Teresa Gibellini (Glamorgan Estate)
2014 - Ashley Wood (Cape Mentelle)	2007 - Steve James (Voyager Estate)
2013 - Dave Botting (Howard Park & Madfish Wines)	



VITICULTURAL EXCELLENCE AWARD APPLICATION

BACKGROUND

The Viticultural Excellence Award was developed in 2007 to acknowledge that great wines start in the vineyard. It celebrates the importance of viticulture to the Margaret River Wine Region and recognises a person's outstanding achievement in the Margaret River wine industry.

Associated with the annual Margaret River Wine Show the award will be presented at the 2021 Wine Show Gala Awards Luncheon hosted by the Margaret River Wine Association on **Friday 29 October 2021** at Swings & Roundabouts.

Entries close **10 October 2021**.

Entry Fees

MRWA Grape Grower and Wine Producer Members	No charge
Non-MRWA Members	\$150.00

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Entrants are required to manage at least one vineyard for the production of wine grapes within the Margaret River GI.

Note: vineyards of less than five years old or those which have been cropped for 3 vintages or less will not have a production history worthy of assessment.

Entrants will be assessed as managers of individual vineyards even if they are employed by a separate company to undertake this role.

JUDGING

Judging will be conducted by a Panel Reference Group (PRG) consisting of MRWA Members and other wine industry representatives if required. The judges will be independent of any vineyard and or winery eligible to apply.

This group will be supported by MRWA staff.

ASSESSMENT

PART 1

Written responses to questions in the application form. Sections A – F are worth a possible total of 75 points. Section G is worth a possible total of 25 points.

PART 2

From the information supplied in the written applications the PRG will determine which vineyards warrant a site visit and an interview with the applicant.

PART 3

The Viticultural Excellence Award will be determined by the PRG.

The PRG assessment of applications will be based on the information provided, findings during site visits and interviews plus independent peer reports.

Some secondary points that may be considered include:

- Vineyard – size and resources available to manage the property (the vineyard must be producing wine grapes commercially to be eligible).
- Vineyard Management – practical and theoretical understanding of managing a vineyard and producing grapes to winery specifications (canopy management, pest and disease, irrigation, soil health, weed control, nutrition, OH&S).
- Environmental Sustainability – water use, salinity, soil health, ecosystem impacts and bio-security.
- Economic Viability – strategic planning, vineyard establishment and development/re-development, grape purchase agreements, quality assurance schemes, budget control.
- Improvement – innovation, diversification, modernisation.
- Wine industry – professional development, involvement with wine industry groups and/or associations.

These may be expanded further if required by the PRG and will be declared to all applicants.

ANNUAL AWARD

The Viticultural Excellence Award is supported by Happs Wines who provide a \$2,000 travel/education/training bursary scholarship to the winner for the advancement of their viticultural knowledge and practice.

In addition, the winner will have the opportunity to feature in the Margaret River Vintage 2021 Report.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. The winner will be required to submit a short report to the Association within two months of their return from travelling or completing education and training. The winner will be requested to present the report at an appropriate MRWA event.
2. Travel, education, or training must take place within 12 months of the prize being awarded. (Extension can be applied for should Covid-19 restrictions prevent travel).
3. The destination and itinerary or education and training program are to be pre-approved by MRWA.
4. Payment of the bursary will be made on receipt of travel, education or training documents.
5. Previous winners are ineligible from entering again for a period of at least ten years.



VITICULTURAL EXCELLENCE AWARD APPLICATION

SECTION A: APPLICANT DETAILS

Name			
Position			
Contact Details	Phone		Mobile
	Email		

Vineyard (s) Details

Name & Physical Location	
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Vineyard Information (if you need more space please attach list to your application)

Varieties	Hectares	Tonnages

Fruit Information

Fruit is supplied to	
Names of Commercial Labels for Sale	

SECTION B: BACKGROUND STATEMENT (15 POINTS)

Part A Personal Background (No more than half a page)

Please provide a brief summary of your background in the viticulture industry (including education, training and work history) as well the main reasons that motivated you to get into this industry.



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Part B Vineyard History/Overview (No more than one page)

Provide a general history and overview of the nature of your vineyard from your own perspective, outlining the long-term prospect for the business to provide quality fruit that is fit for purpose.

SECTION C: INNOVATION (15 POINTS)**Innovation and Development** (No more than half a page)

Describe some of the innovations you have implemented to promote best practice in Western Australian vineyards.

SECTION D: BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (15 POINTS)**Business Plan: Viticulture Contribution** (No more than half a page)

Describe your business vision with emphasis on market direction, market strategies and business sustainability. Provide examples of outcomes from these strategies.

SECTION E: SUSTAINABILITY (15 POINTS)**Environmental Sustainability** (No more than half a page)

Describe and demonstrate your commitment to environmental sustainability. Provide examples of initiatives you have introduced to minimise the negative impact of your business practices (e.g. energy and water conservation, recycling, etc.).

SECTION F: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (15 POINTS)**Professional Development - Self** (No more than a quarter of a page)

Describe your commitment to the wine industry and your own professional/personal development. Provide examples of training/skill development programs undertaken and industry participation.

Professional Development - Staff (No more than a quarter of a page)

Describe your commitment to the professional/personal development of your staff and how you determine their training or skill development needs. Provide examples of training/skill development programs undertaken.



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SECTION G: FINAL MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT (25 POINTS)

Physical Visitation and Interview

The applicant is to provide the Panel Reference Group with a tour of their vineyard to physically demonstrate the viticultural management and product quality as outlined in the written application.

SECTION H: DECLARATION

I declare that the information provided by me in this application is complete, true, and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that the Margaret River Wine Association reserves the right to reject this application on the basis of incorrect or incomplete information. I also acknowledge that the Panel Reference Group’s decisions on behalf of the Margaret River Wine Association are final and no discussion will be entered into. If successful I commit to the Terms & Conditions of the Award.

Signature		Date	
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Electronic Signature is OK

SUBMISSION

Please email your application, including entry fee if applicable, to pipheaford@margaretriver.wine **10 October 2021**.

PAYMENT DETAILS

(\$150 for non-MRWA Members Only)

Credit Card Number:	
Expiry Date:	CCV: