



MARGARET RIVER WINE

MEDIA RELEASE

THURSDAY 4 AUGUST 2022

Margaret River celebrated at last night's 2023 Halliday Wine Companion Awards

- **Winemaker of the Year: Xanadu Wine Chief Winemaker, Glenn Goodall**
- **Dark Horse Winery: L.A.S Vino**
- **Best Value Winery: Deep Woods Estate**
- **Chardonnay of the Year: Stella Bella Luminosa Chardonnay 2020**
- **Sauvignon Blanc of the Year: Flowstone Wines Queen of the Earth Sauvignon Blanc 2020 (for the fourth year)**
- **Margaret River has more 5-star wineries than any other region**

Margaret River wine region's outstanding wine quality and excellence at every price point was confirmed at this year's Halliday Wine Companion Awards with the region highly awarded, including Winemaker of the Year, Dark Horse Winery and Best Value Winery.

These coveted awards celebrate the best of the best in the wine industry and the accompanying annual book also outlines the scores of individual wines and wineries across the country.

Excitingly, Margaret River is now home to more 5-star wineries than any other region. "Considering the scarce production in our region, at just 2% of Australia's national crush, this is an incredible achievement" said Amanda Whiteland – Chief Executive Officer at Margaret River Wine. "We look forward to the Halliday Awards every year and we're thrilled to see our region receive accolades for five categories," she added.

Winemaker of the Year

Xanadu Wine Chief Winemaker, Glenn Goodall was awarded the highly anticipated accolade of [Winemaker of the Year](#).

Award judge Erin Larkin said Glenn's leadership, focus and attention to detail result in wines that "exude excellence at every price point."

"Glenn is not only an exceptionally talented winemaker, but a widely loved and respected member of the industry," Erin said.

"I'm excited and feel very honoured to receive the Halliday Winemaker of the Year award. I've been fortunate enough to lead the Xanadu team for many years, and winemaking is definitely a team sport. This award acknowledges everyone, including our growers, who have been involved

in the Xanadu journey over the years, and I feel really proud to represent this group.” Goodall said.

Dark Horse Winery

L.A.S. Vino was awarded [Dark Horse Winery](#). Dark Horse nominees are wineries that are not new to the Companion but who have received a 5-star rating for the first time this year.

Erin Larkin said “Nic Peterkin was born with pedigree winemaking blood in his veins, but nothing but his own ingenuity and hard work have got him to where L.A.S. Vino is today. Nic has consistently produced wines that push boundaries and show a penchant for his calculated, out-of-the-box style of thinking.”

L.A.S. – which stands for luck, art, and science – is one of Margaret River’s most cutting-edge wine labels. Nic said it “Feels great to be recognised for the award after 9 years making wine in one of the most beautiful places in the world.”

Best Value Winery

Deep Woods Estate was a very worthy winner and Margaret River led the country with two of the nine top contenders.

Best Value doesn’t mean the cheapest and [Best Value Winery of the Year](#) is closely tied to the awarding of rosettes for wines offering special value for money at their price point. With more than 1300 rosettes awarded this year, the number of value wineries vying for this award is considerable.

Best Varietal

From over 8,000 wines from more than 1,100 wineries tasted and reviews, two Margaret River wine also shone through as Best Varietal winners.

Halliday Wine Companion editor Tyson Stelzer felt the Chardonnay category was one of the most hotly contested varietal awards. Before introducing the [Chardonnay of the Year](#) he commented that “Margaret River towered above all others” before going on to announce Stella Bella Wines as Australia’s Best Chardonnay for its single vineyard 2020 Luminosa Chardonnay.

Flowstone Wines Queen of the Earth Sauvignon Blanc 2020 was awarded [Sauvignon Blanc of the Year](#). This is the fourth year that Flowstone has been given such an accolade.

This year, other Margaret River finalists included:

- Winery of the Year – McHenry Hohnen Vintners
- Best Value Winery – Xanadu Wines
- Best New Winery – Montague Estate and Trait Wines

The full list of results is published in the 2023 Halliday Wine Companion book and online at www.winecompanion.com.au

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Images [here](#) | View awards broadcast [here](#)

For further information or images contact:

Previous Winners:

- 2022 edition – Viticulturalist of the Year – Vanya Cullen, Cullen Wines
- 2020 edition – Winemaker of the Year – Vanya Cullen
- 2020 edition – Best Value Winery of the Year – Domaine Naturaliste
- 2019 edition – Winemaker of the Year – Julian Langworthy
- 2017 edition – Best Value Winery of the Year – Larry Cherrubino Wines
- 2017 edition – Dark Horse of the Year – Arlewood Estate
- 2015 edition – Wine of the Year – Xanadu Stevens Road Cabernet Sauvignon 2011

About Margaret River Wine Association

The Margaret River Wine Association (MRWA) is the peak body for Margaret River grape growers and winemakers and represents their interests to promote, protect and enhance Margaret River fine wine. The Association is an independent, non-profit organisation, financed by its members with additional funding sourced through sponsorship and grants. MRWA has 200 industry members and 50 associated Grape Grower and Commercial members. MRWA was established in the late 1970s as the Margaret River Grape Growers & Winemakers Association and in 2022 it celebrates its 40th Anniversary since incorporation in 1982.

To learn more, see media kit: margaretriver.wine/media/