



MEDIA RELEASE

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Margaret River Showers in IWSC Gold

The International Wine & Spirit Competition (IWSC) brought its prestigious global awards back to Western Australia last week — and Margaret River was raining Gold.

Following the success of its inaugural Oceanic judging in 2023, the IWSC returned to Margaret River for the third consecutive year in partnership with the Margaret River Wine Association (MRWA) and Wines of Western Australia.

A total of **39 Gold medals** were awarded, with **Xanadu Wines Cabernet Sauvignon 2023** receiving the top score of 98 points. **Deep Woods Estate Reserve Chardonnay 2023 and 2024** both achieved 97 points, crowning Deep Woods Estate as the **IWSC 2025 Western Australia Producer of the Year Trophy winner**.

The IWSC team of judges from the UK and Australia were fully immersed in the Margaret River Wine Region, experiencing first-hand the land, culture, and wines that define Western Australia's global reputation.

The rigorous IWSC judging process was upheld, and all judging was conducted blind at the Vasse Felix Art Gallery from 26–28 August, with more than 200 wines assessed across key varietals including Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz, and Semillon Sauvignon Blanc.

Margaret River Wine Association CEO Amanda Whiteland said having one of the world's most highly regarded international wine competitions in Margaret River provides outstanding exposure for the region's wine heritage and stories.

"Hosting this year's UK and Australian judges — a group of leading retailers, sommeliers, and media — in the region is the best way to give them a truly comprehensive understanding of our wine experiences, culture, and unique natural environment. Through our immersion program, we hope to create a lasting impression that continues to strengthen awareness of Margaret River as a world-class wine region."

2025 IWSC Gold Medal Highlights

- Xanadu Wines Cabernet Sauvignon 2023 – 98 points
- Deep Woods Estate Reserve Chardonnay 2023 & 2024 – both 97 points
- Domaine Naturaliste Artus Chardonnay 2023 & Rachis Syrah 2023 – 96 & 97 points
- Greenpiper Wines John George Cabernet Sauvignon 2021, 2022 & 2023 – 95, 95 & 97 points
- Nocturne Forrest Chardonnay 2024 & Wilson Chardonnay 2024 – both 96 pints

(See full list attached)

Western Australia Varietal Highlights

Of the 39 Gold Medals awarded:

- Chardonnay led the results with 20 Gold Medals, confirming Margaret River's international reputation for world-class expressions.
- Cabernet Sauvignon followed strongly with 9 Gold Medals, reinforcing the region's red wine pedigree.

- Shiraz / Syrah secured 4 Gold Medals, including standout wines from both Margaret River and Frankland River.
- Sauvignon Blanc & Blends achieved 3 Gold Medals, showcasing the vibrancy of WA's white blends.
- Other styles also impressed, including Chenin Blanc, Savagnin, and Pinot Noir, which each received Gold recognition.

IWSC CEO, Christelle Guibert commented, *"Bringing our international panel of judges to Margaret River offers them an unparalleled opportunity to understand the wines in the context of their land and culture. The exceptional medal results demonstrate how Western Australia continues to deliver world-class wines that resonate with global audiences."*

*"All the **Gold medal-winning wines** from the 2025 edition of the IWSC will now compete against each other for the highest accolade: Trophy winners. The tasting will take place in London on 11 September, with the results announced on 18 September. The best-performing producers will also be considered for our Producers of the Year shortlists, which will be released from 29 September, with the winners celebrated at our Awards Ceremony on 12 November."*

2025 Global Judges

This year the judging panel in Margaret River comprised of **Sarah Abbott MW** (IWSC Wine Judging Committee Member), **Vincenzo Arnese**, **Joseph Arthur**, **Andrew Caillard MW**, **Annette Lacey MW**, **Rebecca Palmer**, **Gabrielle Poy**, and **Tom Kline**.

Previous Margaret River IWSC Trophy Results

- 2024 – House of Cards, *Western Australian Wine Producer Trophy*
- 2023 – Cherubino Wines, *White Wine Producer Trophy*
- 2023 – Cherubino Wines, *Outstanding Wine Producer of the Year Trophy*
- 2023 – Cape Mentelle, *Old Vines Trophy*

This initiative was proudly supported by **WA Wines to the World**, an industry-led Export Growth Partnership coordinated by **Wines of Western Australia** and co-funded by **DPIRD**.

- ENDS -

Appendix 1 – Full List of IWSC 2025 Gold Medal Winners (Western Australia Judging)

Producer	Wine	Medal / Score	Region
Xanadu Wines	Cabernet Sauvignon 2023	Gold – 98	Margaret River
Deep Woods Estate	Reserve Chardonnay 2023	Gold – 97	Margaret River
Deep Woods Estate	Reserve Chardonnay 2024	Gold – 97	Margaret River
Greenpiper Wines	John George Cabernet Sauvignon 2023	Gold – 97	Margaret River
Domaine Naturaliste	Rachis Syrah 2023	Gold – 97	Margaret River
Domaine Naturaliste	Artus Chardonnay 2023	Gold – 96	Margaret River
Ferngrove	The Stirlings Bluff Knoll Cab Shiraz Malbec 2023	Gold – 96	Frankland River
House of Cards	'Ace High' Chardonnay 2024	Gold – 96	Margaret River
Howard Park Wines	Chardonnay 2024	Gold – 96	Margaret River
Nocturne	Sv Forrest Chardonnay 2024	Gold – 96	Margaret River
Nocturne	Sv Wilson Chardonnay 2024	Gold – 96	Margaret River
Amato Vino	Savagnin 'Space Girls' 2024	Gold – 95	Margaret River
Brookland Valley	Reserve Chardonnay 2024	Gold – 95	Margaret River
Cape Mentelle	Chardonnay 2023	Gold – 95	Margaret River

Producer	Wine	Medal / Score	Region
Cape Mentelle	Heritage Chardonnay 2024	Gold – 95	Margaret River
Coward & Black	Fumé Blanc 2023	Gold – 95	Margaret River
Fermoy	Reserve Chardonnay 2024	Gold – 95	Margaret River
Lenton Brae	Southside Chardonnay 2024	Gold – 95	Margaret River
Lenton Brae	Wilyabrup Chardonnay 2024	Gold – 95	Margaret River
Happs	Three Hills Chardonnay 2023	Gold – 95	Margaret River
House of Cards	The Royals Chardonnay 2024	Gold – 95	Margaret River
Snake and Herring	Primary Chardonnay 2024	Gold – 95	Margaret River
Stella Bella	Suckfizzle Chardonnay 2024	Gold – 95	Margaret River
Stella Bella	Suckfizzle Sauvignon Blanc Semillon 2023	Gold – 95	Margaret River
Vasse Felix	Chardonnay 2023	Gold – 95	Margaret River
Wills Domain	Eightfold Sauvignon Blanc 2024	Gold – 95	Margaret River
Aravina Estate	Stella Bdx 2022	Gold – 95	Margaret River
Below&Above	Pinot Noir 2021	Gold – 95	Pemberton
Evans & Tate	Redbrook Estate Shiraz 2023	Gold – 95	Margaret River
Ferngrove	The Orchid Collection Majestic Cabernet 2023	Gold – 95	Frankland River
Ferngrove	The Orchid Collection Dragon Shiraz 2023	Gold – 95	Frankland River
Forester Estate	Yelverton Reserve Cabernet 2023	Gold – 95	Margaret River
Fraser Gallop Estate	Parterre Cabernet Sauvignon 2022	Gold – 95	Margaret River
Greenpiper Wines	John George Cabernet Sauvignon 2022	Gold – 95	Margaret River
Greenpiper Wines	John George Cabernet Sauvignon 2021	Gold – 95	Margaret River
Howard Park Wines	Scotsdale Great Southern Shiraz 2022	Gold – 95	Great Southern
Passel Estate	Cabernet Sauvignon 2020	Gold – 95	Margaret River
Peccavi Estate	The Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2022	Gold – 95	Margaret River
Snake and Herring	Cannonball Cabernet Sauvignon 2023	Gold – 95	Margaret River

Additional Information:

- The full results are published [HERE](#).
- Images from the 2025 [Judging](#) and [Cultural Experiences](#) and [Results Sundowner](#) in Margaret River. Photo Credit: Ovis Creative.
- The MRWA Media Kit can be downloaded from <https://margaretriver.wine/media/>

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About the IWSC

The IWSC is more than a competition. It is a global wine and spirits community, focused on people and expertise.

Our mission is to champion the best wine and spirits from around the world by taking a personal approach to our partners' needs. We offer comprehensive business support via our network of world-class experts and aim to bring this global community together to share insights and help each other grow.

We don't just champion award winners. We seek out undiscovered talent and help partners – large and small – reach ambitious targets and achieve their goals.

Founded by Austrian wine chemist Anton Massel in 1969, we are proud to have over fifty years' experience rigorously assessing and celebrating the best wine and spirits. Our meticulous standards, attention to detail and world-class expertise sets us apart as the partner of choice for producers, distributors, influencers and experts the world over.

Wine, spirits, knowledge, community. Since 1969

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. Over 175 wine producers and 50 grape grower and commercial organisations are members of MRWA.

About Margaret River

Margaret River is one of the Earth's most pristine, geographically secluded, coastal wine regions. This breathtaking destination of ancient landforms, lush forests and distinct Ironstone gravel soils enjoys a 'textbook perfect' climate for fine wines, with its consistent Mediterranean climate and intense maritime influence – here, the Indian and Southern Oceans meet.

Scarce and sought-after worldwide, Margaret River wines represent only 2% of the Australian annual crush. The elegant and powerful Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay expressions are most noteworthy and can be grown with a 'light touch' approach, as the grapes typically ripen with superb balance, refinement and structure. Artisan and family-owned producers dominate, and their preference for handcrafted winemaking and respectful creativity shines through.

A world-renowned wine destination, the region's 100 cellar doors, gourmet culinary experiences, stunning nature and spirited arts scene attracts over 1.5 million overnight visitors per year.