



MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release
3 March 2026

Margaret River Strengthens Global Standing as IWSC Global Judging Returns for Fourth Year

Margaret River Wine Association (MRWA) is proud to celebrate three highly successful years of hosting the International Wine & Spirit Competition (IWSC) Global Judging in Margaret River, with confirmation the prestigious international judging program will return to the region in August 2026 for a fourth consecutive year.

Since its launch in Western Australia in 2023, the IWSC Global Judging program has become one of the most important international wine events held in the State. Wines from across Western Australia are assessed under the same rigorous methodology, scoring system and medal standards that define the IWSC worldwide, ensuring complete consistency and global recognition.

Over the past three years, Margaret River has welcomed leading UK and international judges, including senior buyers, influential communicators and category experts, who have judged Western Australian wines locally while immersing themselves in the region's vineyards, wineries and landscapes.

The results speak for themselves.

In 2025, Margaret River achieved extraordinary success at the IWSC, securing nine of the competition's 40 international Wine Trophies, more than any other wine region in the world. This remarkable result further cements Margaret River's reputation for excellence, precision and world-class quality on the global stage. The achievement builds on strong performances in 2023 and 2024, where Margaret River wines consistently recorded high medal rates and earned critical acclaim across key varietal categories.

MRWA CEO Amanda Whiteland said the long-term impact of hosting the IWSC in-region extends well beyond medal results.

"Hosting the IWSC Global Judging in Margaret River has been transformational for our region. It's not just about medals, it's about context, credibility and connection. By judging in situ, international decision-makers experience first-hand the quality, landscape and community behind our wines. That deeper understanding translates into long-term advocacy in key export markets, particularly the UK."

The Global Judging program enables wines from all Western Australian regions to be assessed locally as part of the official IWSC process, removing the need to ship samples to London while maintaining the same international scoring integrity.

Importantly, the program is about more than assessment. By tasting in-region and engaging directly with producers, judges develop a deeper appreciation of Margaret River's distinctive identity and evolving fine wine credentials. Over the past three years, this approach has helped build a growing network of ambassadors for Margaret River within the competitive UK market.

Now entering its fourth year, the partnership continues to strengthen Margaret River's positioning as one of the world's leading fine wine regions, with a clear focus on quality, consistency and international visibility.

Further details of the 2026 judging panel and associated UK promotional activity will be announced in April.

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For images:

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