



MEDIA RELEASE

**24 SEPTEMBER 2020
EMBARGOED UNTIL 9PM AEST**

Cabernet Challenge Trophy & Five Regional Winners Announced from World-First Virtual Wine Challenge

The 2018 Xanadu Cabernet Sauvignon is the 2020 James Halliday Australia Cabernet Challenge Trophy winner, scoring 97 points and taking out the top prize from 364 entries from 29 regions across the Australia.

Xanadu Senior Winemaker, Glenn Goodall said *“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 Halliday Australian Cabernet Challenge is definitely the highlight of 2020, and a huge achievement for everyone involved at Xanadu, especially our growers.*

“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.”

Last night the results of the James Halliday Australian Cabernet Challenge presented by Langton’s were announced on Langton's [Youtube](#) channel and streamed to [Facebook](#). It was great to see five regional winners presented in what was a true celebration of the world’s most planted and extremely versatile, food-friendly variety.

The streamed virtual presentation following the 3-days of virtual judging which is believed to be a world-first as it was held simultaneously in two separate judging hubs in Coonawarra and Margaret River, due to Covid-19 travel restrictions restricting judges to gather together.

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 also now available to view at 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, Barossa Baron
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

To learn more, see www.australiancabernetchallenge.com.au

[Dropbox link](#) to Images

For further information contact:

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Coonawarra Vignerons - Heidi Eldridge, marketing@coonawarra.org



Wine Yarra Valley – Lauren McKay, marketing@wineyarravalley.com.au

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.

