

Press Release
Thursday 10 October 2019**The Yarra Valley brings home the national Chardonnay Challenge trophy for another year**

The Oakridge Wines 2017 864 Funder and Diamond Chardonnay has been crowned Australia's best chardonnay in the 2019 Langton's James Halliday Chardonnay Challenge.

Scoring 96 out of a total 100 points, the chardonnay produced by Oakridge Wines is a single vineyard, single block wine that took out the top prize from over 400 other chardonnay entrants from regions around the country.

"To win the top chardonnay in the Yarra Valley is an achievement in itself, but to take out the national challenge is very humbling, very pleasing." David Bicknell, Chief Winemaker of Oakridge Wines said.

"The 864 block wines are all about capturing the essence of the vineyard and reflecting the season in which they were grown. 2017 was in the cool spectrum (or what we call cool now) and the latest pick for 864 chardonnay we have had since the 2011 harvest. In keeping with this, the wine is tightly coiled, minerally, pure, composed and very long. One for the long haul that will continue to improve in bottle over the next 10 years."

Announced yesterday at 4.00pm by Wine Yarra Valley, this is the second consecutive year a Yarra Valley wine has won the national award.

"The Oakridge 864 Funder and Diamond epitomises subtle complexity, crystalline purity and incredible focus. A stunning Yarra Valley Chardonnay which was consistently head and shoulders above its peers through the competition also displays the strength of the 2017 vintage," Chair of Judges, Chris Crawford describes the winner.

Being one of the most diverse and widely planted varieties across the country, the Langton's James Halliday Chardonnay Challenge aims to find Australia's best example.

"This year brought together many fine examples of chardonnay from around the country," James Halliday said.

"The pristine, expressive and genre-leading Oakridge 864 Chardonnay profoundly reflects the power of the Yarra Valley landscape, an enduring Yarra Valley classic" James Halliday describes the winning wine.

Now in its eighth year, the judges of the Challenge also award a trophy to the top wine of each Australian region in the instance where it is awarded 95 points or above.

In 2019 seven regional winners were awarded from Tasmania, Hunter Valley, Mornington Peninsula, Beechworth, Margaret River, Adelaide Hills and Yarra Valley.

Chardonnay lovers can find out more about this year's Langton's James Halliday Chardonnay Challenge via Wine Yarra Valley or chardonnaychallenge.com.au.

Don't miss David Bicknell, Chris Crawford and James Halliday all presenting their knowledge and sharing their passion for chardonnay at the Langton's Chardonnay Symposium Australia on Thursday 31st October, in the Yarra Valley. Tickets available here - <https://www.chardonnaysymposium.com.au/>

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