



Australia's Best Chardonnay and Cabernet Awarded for 2023

MEDIA RELEASE
8 SEPTEMBER 2023

In celebration of the world's most popular two grape varieties, last night, the highest-pointed Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon in Australia were crowned for the **2023 James Halliday Australian Chardonnay and Cabernet Challenge**.

The **Evans & Tate 2021 Redbrook Estate Chardonnay** from Margaret River and the **Forest Hill Vineyard 2022 Block 5 Cabernet Sauvignon** from Great Southern were crowned trophy winners, both rated 97 points, from a total of 615 entries across 34 Australian wine regions.

Showcasing Australia's outstanding regional diversity, the James Halliday Australian Chardonnay and Cabernet Challenge combines the two varieties to be judged simultaneously. This year, judging took place at Hubert Estate in the Yarra Valley.

Chair of Judges, Adam Wadewitz, said, "It was great to lead such a talented team once again for the 2023 James Halliday Australian Chardonnay and Cabernet Challenge. The judges found some real gems that highlight the best examples of Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon from across Australia. It was exciting to be judging some of the cooler vintages and noting that many of the awarded wines not only look good now but will reward those that can keep them in their cellar long enough."

Challenge Patron, James Halliday AM, said, "Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon are an unlikely couple brought together because each is respected throughout the world of wine through the prism of fellow winemakers, of distributors and retailers, of collectors, of educators, and all those who simply enjoy a glass of great wine".

22 'Best of Region' Winners were awarded for wines achieving scores of 95 points or more.

The 2023 Chardonnay Challenge Regional Winners:

Adelaide Hills	Sidewood 2022 Signature Owen's Chardonnay	96 points
Beechworth	Brokenwood Wines 2022 Indigo Vineyard Chardonnay	96 points
Eden Valley	St Hugo 2022 Eden Valley Chardonnay	95 points
Gippsland	Dirty Three Wines 2022 All the Dirts Chardonnay	95 points
Hunter Valley	Brokenwood Wines 2022 Oakey Creek Vineyard Chardonnay	95 points
King Valley	A. Rodda 2022 Baxendale Vineyard Chardonnay	95 points
Macedon Ranges	Shadowfax 2022 Midhill Chardonnay	95 points
Margaret River	Evans & Tate 2021 Redbrook Estate Chardonnay	97 points
Mornington Peninsula	Paringa Estate 2021 The Paringa Chardonnay	95 points
Orange	Swinging Bridge 2021 Caldwell Lane Chardonnay	95 points
Tasmania	Derwent Estate 2020 Calcaire Chardonnay	96 points
Tumbarumba	Brokenwood Wines 2021 Maragle Vineyard Chardonnay	95 points
Yarra Valley	Oakridge 864 2021 Funder & Diamond Chardonnay	96 points

The 2023 Cabernet Challenge Regional Winners:

Barossa Valley	Kaesler Wines 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon	95 points
Clare Valley	Jim Barry Barry and Sons 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon	96 points
Coonawarra	Yalumba 2021 Sanctum Cabernet Sauvignon	96 points
Geographe	Willow Bridge Estate Coat of Arms 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Malbec	95 points
Great Southern	Forest Hill Vineyard 2022 Block 5 Cabernet Sauvignon	97 points
King Valley	Gapsted Estate Ballerina Canopy 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon	95 points
Margaret River	Rivendell Estate 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon	95 points
McLaren Vale	d'Arenberg 2021 The High Trellis Cabernet Sauvignon	96 points
Yarra Valley	Thousand Candles 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon	95 points

The full results are available at australianwinechallenge.com.au

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Notes: Chardonnay and 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 above) were selected to determine the Best of Region wine, then each Regional Winner was judged again for the Chardonnay and Cabernet Trophies.

The judges for the 2023 James Halliday Australian Chardonnay & Cabernet Challenge were:

Adam Wadewitz	Shaw + Smith, SA/TAS	Chair of Judges
Sarah Crowe	Yarra Yering, VIC	
Adrian Sparks	Mount Pleasant, NSW	
Gabrielle Poy	Prince Wine Store, VIC	
Russell Cody	Calabria Wines, NSW	
Erin Larkin	Robert Parker Wine Advocate, WA	
Glenn Goodall	Xanadu Wines, WA	
Michael Downer	Murdoch Hill, SA	
Natalie Cleghorn	Mitchelton Wines, VIC	
Alister Timms	Shadowfax Wines, VIC	

Associate Judges

Kara Maisano	Masani Dining, VIC
Brendan Hawker	Yering Station, VIC
Marty Siebert	Tokar Estate, VIC
Jacopo Dalli Cani	McHenry Hohnen, WA
Matt Buchan	Cherubino, WA
Lauren Hansen	Penley Estate, SA

Judging Images



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The James Halliday Australian Chardonnay and Cabernet Challenge is a celebration of the world's most popular two varieties and Australia's outstanding regional diversity.

Born in the Yarra Valley in 2012, the James Halliday Australian Chardonnay Challenge celebrates all Chardonnays in its quest to find the nation's best Chardonnay is Australia's most planted white variety and the continuing evolution of its style by Australian makers is heralded globally.

The James Halliday Australian Cabernet Challenge was launched in Margaret River in 2016. As the world's most widely planted vine and Australia's third most planted variety, Cabernet Sauvignon is one of Australian wine's great success stories.

Margaret River Wine Association and Wine Yarra Valley collaborate and jointly host the Chardonnay and Cabernet Challenges in alternate years between two of Australia's most iconic wine regions. The first joint Challenge judging took place in the Yarra Valley in 2021.

Margaret River Wine and Wine Yarra Valley are the official and 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 another Australian fine wine region to showcase the very best wines produced in-region and around Australia.

