

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 30 August 2016

'World's Greatest Shiraz' challenge... the Top 10 winners with Penfolds Grange at the peak ~ and Victorians nudging the top five

Winestate Magazine today announced the winner of what is the world's biggest independent and professionally managed tasting and judging of Shiraz/Syrah wines.

And an expected 'Top 10' actually became 12, with two Equal Placings that saw three Victorian wineries showing in the Five Star grouping.

A Penfolds Grange 2010 was one of 451 shiraz/syrah wines tasted in the competition and one of only 13 wines to receive Five-Star honours in what Winestate publisher Peter Simic believes is certainly Australia's and possibly the world's most comprehensive shiraz assessment. Offshore wines tasted were from France, South Africa and New Zealand.

Not all of the big names of European brands made it to the final podium. Wines had to achieve five stars to be in the ultimate trophy taste off. Another 267 received a Winestate recommendation and medals.

Coordinating judge Peter Simic says: "South Australia continues to dominate the class and is providing both heavyweight shiraz and also the middleweight syrah styles. "Not only do we have the usual suspects from the Barossa and McLaren Vale as you'd expect in any shiraz challenge, but we are now getting very serious competition from the Adelaide Hills and historic Victorian wine regions like Heathcote and the Grampians. This is an exciting time for the Australian wine industry with more regions coming into play for shiraz and syrah."

A total of 12 judges took shifts across 4 days – and the team for the final day of Trophy judging were Drew Noon MW (Owner winemaker of Noon Winery), Chris Hatcher (Chief winemaker for Wolf Blass wines), Peter Douglas (winemaker for Koonara Wines) and Winestate's Peter Simic. The panel of judges worked through the 451 wines over 4 days of exhaustive judging with the top tiers re-tasted to ensure a fair result.

The Top 10 - World's Greatest Shiraz Challenge

- 1st. Penfolds Grange, South Australia Shiraz 2010. \$1,048
- 2nd. Annie's Lane Copper Trail, Clare Valley Shiraz 2014, \$79.99
- 3rd. Mollydooker Blue Eyed Boy, McLaren Vale Shiraz 2014, \$49
- 4th. Wolf Blass Estates of the Barossa, Dorrien Barossa Valley Shiraz 2014, \$89
- 5th. *Equal Placed*
 - Grampians Estate Streeton Reserve Shiraz 2012 (Vic), \$75
 - Sanguine D'Orsa, Heathcote Shiraz 2014 (Vic), \$59.95
- 6th. Mollydooker Velvet Glove, McLaren Vale Shiraz 2014, \$185
- 7th. Saltram The Journal Centenarian, Barossa Shiraz 2010, \$174.99
- 8th. Saltram No. 1 Barossa Shiraz 2012, \$99.95
- 9th. *Equal Placed*
 - Domaine Asmara Reserve Heathcote Shiraz (Vic), 2013 \$45
 - Sidewood Estate Mappinga, Adelaide Hills Shiraz 2013, \$60
- 10th. Saltram Moculta Road Barossa Shiraz 2010, \$90.99

The Statistics:

Number Tasted: 451

Number of Five Stars (Gold Award): 13

Number of Four & Half Stars (High Silver Award): 53

Number of Four Stars (Silver Award): 83

Number of Three & Half Stars (High Bronze Award): 61

Number of Three Stars (Bronze Award): 70

Full results of the 2016 Shiraz Syrah Challenge will be published in Winestate Magazine in September.

The Process: Four different panels of three judges evaluated these wines blind over four days. Each wine was presented to the judges as rows of unidentified glasses within various price ranges. Each wine was scored independently by each judge, the scores collated and a consensus given which then translated into a star rating. Following this all wines which achieved a five star rating, regardless of price, were then brought back for another blind judging to determine a 'Top Ten' listing.

Judging Stars: Wine judging is an inexact art, not a science - even at the highest levels of proficiency. Accordingly, Winestate uses the star rating system, which reflects a range, rather than a specific point score. Point systems indicate a level of accuracy that simply does not exist.

Public Taste Opportunity this week...

Subscribers and Ticket holders can taste any of the recently judged Winestate 'Wine Of The Year' wines from Australia, New Zealand and Europe at the Subscriber's Tasting evening at the National Wine Centre, Adelaide on **Friday September 2**, with tickets available from Winestate by calling 08 8357 9205.

The tasting event is managed and presented by Winestate Publishing, Australia's oldest and most respected magazine authority on Australian wines, the wine industry and wine tourism. Each year Winestate evaluates around 11,000 wines from all regions in Australia and New Zealand with additional information on where to stay and where to eat for its public consumer and trade readers.

More Information:

Peter Jackson, Marketing & Promotions Manager, Winestate Publishing, 0457 834 880.

Interview on Wine judging: Peter Simic, 0414 695 232.

General Media Assistance, contact Mike O'Reilly, 0414 882 505