

MEDIA RELEASE

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VICTORIA'S PARINGA ESTATE TAKES HOME TOP HONOURS

2009 MACQUARIE GROUP SYDNEY ROYAL WINE SHOW

STRICT EMBARGO - 11.30PM THURSDAY 12 FEBRUARY

The results are in and Shiraz was the dominant wine at the 2009 Macquarie Group Sydney Royal Wine Show, with Paringa Estate the top performer.

Led by owner-winemaker Lindsay McCall, the Mornington Peninsula Winery impressed the expert panel of judges led by **Chairman of Judges Iain Riggs**, picking up five Gold Medals and five Trophies.

"Paringa did a superb job and was suitably rewarded with The Macquarie Group Perpetual Trophy for Best Wine in Show, for their Paringa Estate Shiraz (2006)," said Mr Riggs.

2355 wines from 357 exhibitors were judged at this year's Show, representing close to a 20-per-cent increase in entries from 2008. Of the wines judged 40% received a medal. Thirty-three trophies, 122 Gold Medals, 211 Silver Medals and 566 Bronze medals have been awarded, covering table wines and fortified wines and brandy.

"The other pleasing aspect was that the 122 Gold Medals were shared across 74 different wineries from the very small to the largest of our multinationals and across the length and breadth of Australia," said Mr Riggs.

On a state basis, South Australia dominated with 52 Gold Medals ahead of NSW with 43, but not unexpectedly the star performer was Western Australia with 16 Gold. Victoria won 10 Gold, half of these going to Paringa Estate.

Wine Show Committee Acting Chair Lyndey Milan says the exhibitors are to be congratulated for their involvement and commitment to raising the standards and reputation of the Australian Wine industry.

"This year's Show witnessed an extremely impressive entry of wines by both the quality and diversity of entries, and the results from this year's Show are indeed reflective of the industry's creativity and dedication to making great Australian wines," said Ms Milan.

101 first time exhibitors entered the Show this year, including Angullong Vineyard from Orange who secured two Trophies, the Bert Bear Trophy for Best Young White Wine and the First Estates Wine Merchants Trophy for best wine under \$15.

"This increase in new exhibitors is either a reflection on the straight forward schedule or a desire to get national recognition or a combination of the two," said Mr Riggs

"The Hunter Valley in New South Wales had an excellent Show winning all the dry white Semillon Gold's (18 plus 4 trophies) reflecting a run of very good vintages and the wholesale adoption of better closures," said Mr Riggs.

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The Fine Wine Partners Perpetual Trophy for Best Show Wine exhibited at major State Wine Shows in the last 12 months was awarded to the Fosters Group, for their Coldstream Hills Reserve Chardonnay (2006).

The Thorp Trophy for Best Sparkling White Wine in Show has been won by B Seppelt & Sons LTD, while McWilliams has retained The McCarthy Shield for the Most Successful Exhibitor in the Wines and Brandy Section, after taking home the award in 2008.

A list of Trophy Winners is attached.

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