



# MARGARET RIVER Wine News

MARGARET RIVER WINE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

88

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## Red or White, Margaret River has it all.

**A staggering 538 wines were judged at the Innovest 2004 Margaret River Wine Show from a record 108 exhibitors. Of those wines 22 gold, 57 silver and 138 bronze medals were awarded over 2 days of judging at the Margaret River Education Campus on the 1st and 2nd December 2004.**



Brian Croser prepares for the start of the show

Brian Croser, winemaker and Executive Chairman of Petaluma chaired an impressive line up of national wine judges including Stephen Pannell, Louisa Rose, Tim White, Steve Charters and Jeremy Stockman.

Particular attention was paid to the show's Cabernet Sauvignon, described as 'an embarrassment of richness and class'. The wines were confirmation of the greatness of



Some of the 538 wines ready for judging

Cabernet Sauvignon and without doubt the outstanding class of the show.

In addition to the accolades for Cabernet Sauvignon, equal attention was paid to the Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc Blends, Chardonnay and Shiraz classes, demonstrating that Margaret River is a premium producer of both red and white varieties. The judges deemed Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc Blends as an essential wine style of the region, at its best juicy, mouth-wateringly fresh, intense and finely balanced. The best Chardonnays were exemplary of the Margaret River style, seamless, sculpted, tropical and stone fruit without overbearing oak. The Shiraz class caused lengthy discussion amongst the judges. The question was raised, will we come back in ten years to find Shiraz is held in the same stead as Cabernet Sauvignon?

The Best Overall Wine and Best Chardonnay were awarded to Ashbrook Estate for their 2002 Chardonnay. An excited Tony Devitt, a director of Ashbrook Estate said, 'we are delighted to have won the two trophies. Ashbrook Estate has had a long term focus on quality and it's pleasing to have this recognised amongst very elite company. We believe that Margaret River must continue to make the best wines possible and Ashbrook will strive to uphold this philosophy into the future.'

The other major award, Most Successful Exhibitor, was won again by Brookland Valley,



Proud winners (L-R) Brian Devitt, Ashbrook Estate; Cliff Royle, Voyager Estate; Andrew Gaman, Rockfield Estate; Clive Otto, Vasse Felix; Colin Ross, Brookland Valley; Richard Drake-Brockman, Harmelin Bay



The judging panel (L-R) Brian Croser, Jeremy Stockman, Steve Charters, Trudie Michels, Paul McArdle, Matthew Byrne, Louisa Rose, Steve Pannell, Andrew Gaman and Tim White

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