



# MARGARET RIVER Wine News

MARGARET RIVER WINE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

93

DEC 2005

## Pioneering Favourites Show True Style

Margaret River Cabernets, Chardonnays and Semillons lived up to their excellent reputation at Commonwealth Bank 2005 Margaret River Wine Show, according to Chairman of Judges Brian Croser.

Mr Croser was positive in his feedback on these key varieties after two days of judging 601 wines in 27 classes.

Joined by Iain Riggs, Stephen Pannell, Brian Fletcher, David O'Leary and Alan Dinneen, along with Associate Judges Simon Ding, Kym Eyres, Annette Hutton and Lance Parkin, Mr Croser said this year's entries gave proof that Chardonnay and Cabernet were the specialities of the Margaret River region.

Mr Croser congratulated the region on being courageous enough to acknowledge the two varieties as being the pioneering wines that have built the region's premium reputation. "That could put noses out of joint," he said.

"You couldn't do that in most regions, there would be too much uproar and I'm glad there is one area that acknowledges it." But he said the challenge now lay with how to best manage the rapidly growing reputation of

Margaret River Semillon and Sauvignon Blanc blends.

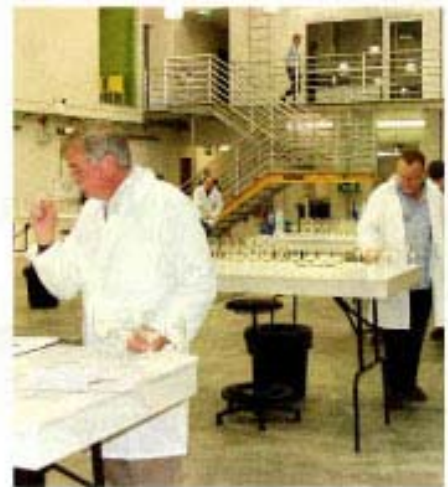
"Consumers, in part, would say the best SSB comes from Margaret River, and again, this year, they have been very good," he said.

"The challenge will be how to move forward with those pioneers but recognising the SSB blends in the future."

During his comments at the Exhibitor Tasting, Mr Croser forewarned Margaret River that as a region, it would need to ensure its premium wines were kept in the Australian spotlight. "Commodity brands are for drinking day to day without thinking but unfortunately they are the dominant image on the world market," he said. "Margaret River produces fine wines or terroir wines, wines that have the region coming through, emphasising the region rather than the winemaker, wines in synergy with grape variety and region.

As an industry, you will have to pressure industry to make sure fine wines are put in the limelight, rather than just brands." Iain Riggs agreed with the region's top varieties but said as a young region, he still

wanted to see Margaret River winemakers experimenting with different varieties and styles, and encouraged them to be patient.



The Judges in Action.



The Judges

Kym Eyres, Alan Dinneen, Iain Riggs, Brian Croser, Annette Hutton, David O'Leary, Simon Ding, Lance Parkin, Brian Fletcher and Stephen Pannell.

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# Congratulations!

Congratulations to this year's trophy and award winners. In all, 31 Gold medals were awarded, 73 Silver and 207 Bronze.

## Trophies

**Best Wine of Show** Evans and Tate Margaret River Chardonnay 2004

(Sponsored by Nadalie Australia)

**Most Successful Exhibitor** Evans and Tate

(Sponsored by Visy/ The Packaging Company)

**Best Chardonnay** Evans and Tate Margaret River Chardonnay 2004

(Sponsored by World Cooperage/ Great Western Winemakers)

**Best Cabernet Sauvignon** Woodlands Cabernet Sauvignon 2002

(Sponsored by Vinkem/ Laffort Oenologie)

**Best Museum** Evans & Tate Redbrook Chardonnay 2001

(Sponsored by MRWIA)



## Awards

**Best Sauvignon Blanc** Briarose Estate Sauvignon Blanc 2005

(Sponsored by MRWIA)

**Best Semillon** Evans and Tate Margaret River Semillon 2002

(Sponsored by Labelworld)

**Best Semillon/ Sauvignon Blend** Cape Mentelle Sauvignon Blanc Semillon 2005

(Sponsored by Vinline Mobile Bottling)

**Best Cabernet Sauvignon Blend** Brookland Valley Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot 2002

(Sponsored by Cospak/ O-I)

**Best Shiraz** 2004 Stella Bella Shiraz

(Sponsored by O-I)

**Optimus Alias (Best Other)** Hamelin Bay 2005 Rampant White

(Sponsored by WA Fork Trucks)

*But in wine, one beholds the heart of another.* An Old French proverb

# Wine Industry Glitters at Gala Night



Paul Birch, David Langley, Richard Ffrench, Murray Edwards and Matt Symes each accepted an award on behalf of Quins & Tans.

Stylish tuxedos, glittering gowns and chic cocktail dresses created a night of glamour for the Gala Awards Dinner at Watershed Premium Wines.

For the first time the awards night was elevated to a Black Tie event, and guests responded to the dress code in savvy style.

Designed to reflect Margaret River's prestigious reputation, the dinner was first class all the way.

Three award-winning chefs, Francois Morvan from Flutes, Nigel Harvey from Voyager Estate and Watershed head chef Troy Harrison shared the kitchen to create their own signature dishes.

Each meal was matched with last year's Wine Show winners, allowing people to reminisce on the 2004 Show and to see how these award winners had aged.

MC Troy Buswell entertained the 200 guests with jokes and humorous anecdotes as he

introduced the award categories and the sponsors to present them.

The awards dinner was followed by the Exhibitor's Tasting, which gave exhibitors the opportunity to taste the winning wines, medal recipients and others judged at the Show.

More than 200 people spent the morning at the Margaret River Education Campus, with some excellent feedback on the event.

The judges were kept busy with questions from individuals, providing an invaluable independent opinion on the wines.



Law Rose gets on Right Comments on Cape Mentelle's Wines.

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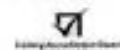


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## From the President

This year's Wine Show was elevated to a level that befits Margaret River. The judges' feedback on how the Commonwealth Bank 2005 Margaret River Wine Show was run was very positive with a professionalism that impressed them. The Show reinforced the value of the varieties that do the best in Margaret River – Chardonnay, Cabernet and the SSB blend. The future of the region will be driven by those varieties.

The Gala Awards Dinner was a huge success with positive feedback already coming from a broad range of people including sponsors and exhibitors. Watershed staff again showed excellent service. The concept of matching the 2004 Wine Show winners with food created by local celebrity chefs was very well received and we thank the generosity of the wineries that donated the wine. It contributed greatly to the overall success of the night.

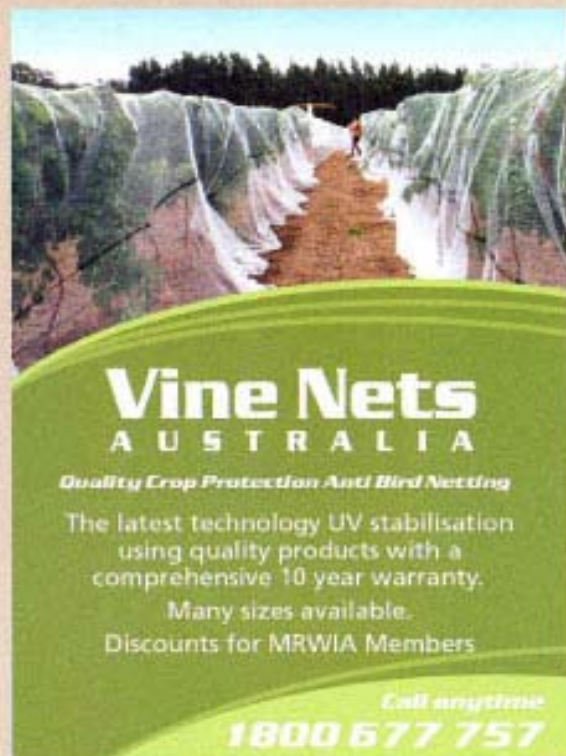
We set out to create an event that would showcase Margaret River and that you, the members, would be proud of. Judging by the feedback, I believe we have



achieved this. We have already started to think about next year's Show and what we can do to make it better – we are certainly not resting on our laurels. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of this year's Wine Show.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and success with the 2006 vintage.

Ron Fraser, President



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## Website Makeover

[www.margaretriverwine.org.au](http://www.margaretriverwine.org.au) has a new look and feel, and will soon be a one-stop site for the latest Margaret River wine industry news and information.

After consulting with a number of local and Perth-based web design companies, MRWIA chose Perthweb to make the Association's vision for its website a reality.

The site aims to capture a fresh, dynamic and clean image, in keeping with the feel of the region and the Association. It will be steadily built to feature the information that is relevant for all members. It will keep members abreast of the latest developments and initiatives, training opportunities, business offers, members' profiles and a lot more.

This new site has been developed with the proceeds of the MRWIA raffle, held in the first part of 2005, and we thank wineries for contributing to the raffle prizes.

For comments or suggestions, please contact Janine Carter on 9757 9330 or [events@margaretriverwine.org.au](mailto:events@margaretriverwine.org.au).



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