



Australian Government

Wine Australia

Media Release

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Cheers to Australia's most outstanding export wine: A McLaren Vale Shiraz!

A small McLaren Vale winery has been rewarded as Australia's best export wine of the year, with Hedonist Wines winning the prestigious George Mackey Memorial Trophy for its 2009 The Hedonist Shiraz.

Chosen from more than 14,500 wines, the 2009 The Hedonist Shiraz is one of the winery's flagship wines and was made by Walter Clappis and assistant winemakers James Cooter and Walter's daughter Kimberly.

The George Mackey Trophy adds to Walter's impressive list of plaudits, spanning over 20 years at Hedonist Wines and also in his time at Ingoldby Winery. He has amassed a total of 37 trophies and 124 gold medals, including winning the Dan Murphy Trophy three times and being announced as the McLaren Vale Bushing King.

Wine Australia Chief Executive Andrew Cheesman said the George Mackey Trophy recognised the exceptionally high standard set by Walter and his team at the Hedonist.

"This award cements the reputation of the Hedonist, particularly as it was chosen from more than 14,500 wines by an expert panel," he said.

"The Hedonist has been rewarded for excellence with this award and it also means it is flying the flag for the Australian fine wine segment in key international markets."

Hedonist Winemaker Walter Clappis said the team was "overwhelmed" with the award – and the export wines that it triumphed over.

"The crème de la crème of Australian wine being exported were vying for this award and our wine was deemed to be the best which makes us incredibly proud.

"We were up against some of Australia's wine export heavy-weights and we feel honoured to be representing some of the best wine of Australia."

The George Mackey trophy was established in memory of a former chairman of Wine Australia (formerly Australian Wine & Brandy Corporation), Mr George Mackey, who passed away in office in 1990.

The award is presented annually by Wine Australia to the most outstanding export wine of the year. Initial nomination is made by Wine Australia wine inspectors, who set aside the best wines during the daily inspection of every exported Australian wine.

This year, 53 wines were eligible from a pool of more than 14,500 and the judges included Peter Godden from the AWRI, Chapel Hill winemaker Michael Fraggos and Peter Welsh from Edinburgh Cellars. To be eligible, at least one pallet of wine must be exported within the year of nomination.



Previous winners have included Penfolds, Wirra Wirra, Tatachilla, Coldstream Hills, Cape Mentelle, Penley Estate and Sabella Vineyards. Last year, iconic Australian wine brand Wolf Blass won the trophy with its 2005 Wolf Blass Black Label Cabernet Shiraz.

“The George Mackey Trophy, along with our strong focus on promoting Australia’s fine wine category globally ensures we continue to celebrate Australia’s best wines,” Mr Cheesman said.

“Despite the challenges currently facing the wine sector, Wine Australia is focused on encouraging the continued recognition of iconic and great Australian wines. The George Mackey Memorial Trophy plays an important role in this recognition.”

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FURTHER ENQUIRIES:

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Notes for editors

GEORGE MACKEY MEMORIAL TROPHY

The trophy was established in memory of a former chairman of Wine Australia, Mr George Mackey, who died in 1990. Mr Mackey served on the Board from March 1982 and as Chairman from September 1986 until 1990.

During the three-and-a-half years he served as Chairman, Mr Mackey was largely responsible for improved communication within the industry and for the Corporation becoming the effective organisation it is today. The Corporation’s Board recognised this contribution and with the financial support of industry and the Mackey family, instituted the George Mackey Memorial Trophy.

The trophy is presented annually by the Corporation to the most outstanding exported wine of the year. Initial nomination of the award is by Wine Australia’s wine inspectors through the routine inspection process and the final winner is selected by an independent panel of wine show judges. To qualify for the final selection, 200 cases (1800 litres) of the product must have been exported.

Presentation of the trophy is made at the Corporation’s annual general meeting in December each year.

Trophy winners include:

1990-1991	Lindemans 1990 Padthaway Chardonnay
1991-1992	Coldstream Hills 1991 Pinot Noir
1992-1993	Hardys Collection 1991 Padthaway Chardonnay
1993-1994	Cape Mentelle 1993 Chardonnay
1994-1995	Diawa Nar Darak 1994 Chardonnay
1995-1996	Penley Estate 1993 Penley Cabernet Sauvignon
1996-1997	Rosemount Estate 1994 Show Reserve McLaren Vale Shiraz
1997-1998	Coldstream Hills 1996 Reserve Chardonnay
1998-1999	Rosemount Estate 1996 SR McLaren Vale Shiraz
1999-2000	Chateau Xanadu 1998 Chardonnay
2000-2001	Tatachilla 1998 McLaren Vale Cabernet Sauvignon



2001-2002 Orlando 2000 Jacobs Creek Limited Release Chardonnay
2002-2003 Wirra Wirra 2001 RSW Shiraz
2003-2004 Brothers In Arms 2002 No.6 Langhorne Creek Shiraz Cabernet
2004-2005 Mt Toolleen 2002 Ebenezer Vineyard Barossa Valley Shiraz
2005-2006 Penfolds 2003 RWT Barossa Valley Shiraz
2006-2007 Penfolds 2004 Bin 707 Cabernet Sauvignon
2007-2008 Penfolds 2005 Yattarna Chardonnay
2008-2009 Sabella Vineyards 2005 McLaren Vale Cabernet Sauvignon
2009-2010 Wolf Blass Black Label 2005 Cabernet Shiraz