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International Wine Challenge 2024 names 11 Australian wines amongst best in the world



IWC Sparkling Winemaker of the Year Ed Carr, Head Winemaker at House of Arras

The [International Wine Challenge](#), the world's most influential, impartial and rigorously judged global wine competition, has announced the eleven highest scoring Australian wines in its 2024 competition.

In its 40th year, the International Wine Challenge awarded medals to 38 countries following an intensive blind tasting by a global panel of experts. Australia continued its streak as the top New World country in terms of medals, coming second only to France. An Australian Cabernet Sauvignon was named the best in the world and, for the first time in IWC history, an Australian producer was named Sparkling Winemaker of the Year.

Australian wines judged best in show at IWC 2024:

Shaw + Smith Balhannah Vineyard Shiraz 2021	Australian Red Trophy, IWC Sustainable Trophy 2024, South Australian Red
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	Trophy, South Australian Shiraz Trophy, Adelaide Hills Shiraz Trophy
Robert Oatley The Pennant Cabernet Sauvignon 2018	International Cabernet Sauvignon Trophy, Western Australian Cabernet Sauvignon Trophy
Stefano Lubiana Wines Collina Chardonnay 2022	Australian White Trophy, Australian Chardonnay Trophy, Tasmanian Chardonnay Trophy
Sidewood Estate Owen's Chardonnay 2022	South Australian Chardonnay Trophy
McGuigan Shortlist Riesling 2013	Australian Riesling Trophy
Mr. Riggs Wine The Chap 2018	McLaren Vale Red Blend Trophy
Gemtree Wines The Obsidian Shiraz 2021	McLaren Vale Shiraz Trophy
Kellermeister The Meister Shiraz 2022	Barossa Shiraz Trophy
Morris Wines Old Premium Rare Topaque	Australian Fortified Trophy
House of Arras Blanc de Blancs 2014	Australian Sparkling Trophy
Dawson James Pinot Noir 2021	Tasmanian Pinot Noir Trophy

In a historical first for Australia, the prestigious title of IWC Sparkling Winemaker of the Year went to **Ed Carr, Head Winemaker at House of Arras**. House of Arras's sparkling wines picked up 12 medals, as well as The Australian Sparkling Trophy which went to its Blanc de Blancs 2014, described by judges as "a great example of a sparkler tasting like a really serious wine in its own right with bubbles as an extra."

For the second year in a row, Australian Cabernet Sauvignon was named the best in the world. **Robert Oatley's** The Pennant Cabernet Sauvignon 2018 beat wines from 19 other countries to take the top spot. This adds to the eight medals and two trophies already under this family winery's belt.

It was **Shaw + Smith's** Balhannah Vineyard Shiraz 2021 which was named the best Australian red in the challenge. Described by judges as "refreshing and alive in the mouth with blue and black fruits," it took home five trophies including the Australian Red Trophy and the IWC Sustainable Trophy.

Of the 145 Australian whites awarded medals in this year's challenge, the top spot went to Tasmanian producer, **Stefano Lubiana Wines**, for its "beautifully balanced and poised" Collina Chardonnay 2022, which also won the Tasmanian Chardonnay Trophy and Australian Chardonnay Trophy.

Morris Wines in Rutherglen achieved more Golds than any other Australian producer, claiming five of these top awards for its fortified wines. The Australian Fortified Trophy

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went to its Old Premium Rare Topaque, which judges described as “rich, complex, luscious, and layered with cocoa, chocolate covered raisins and figs.”

This year’s IWC Lifetime Achievement Award went to Australian wine critic, James Halliday AM. Halliday noted, “I am deeply moved by the decision of the International Wine Challenge to bestow its 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award on me. I’m also humbled to join a list of international figures who, over many decades, have played innovative and significant roles extending into the four corners of the wine world.”

The full list of Trophy and Champion winners at the 2024 International Wine Challenge announced on 9th July can be viewed [here](#).

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

In its 40th year, the International Wine Challenge is widely acknowledged as the world’s most rigorous, impartial, influential and global wine competition. The IWC assesses every wine ‘blind’ and judges each for its faithfulness to style, region and vintage. Awards include medals (Gold, Silver, Bronze) and Commended awards. Trophies are awarded to the very best wines in each category. The International Wine Challenge is committed to helping consumers discover great wine, and the medals offer a trusted guarantee of quality.

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