

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Handpicked Wines Does it Again**

Handpicked Wines has won another esteemed wine trophy for their Capella Vineyard chardonnay as announced by James Halliday via video link on Thursday, 11 October 2018.

Scoring a total 96 out of 100 points, the 2016 Handpicked Wines Capella Vineyard Chardonnay won the Mornington Peninsula Regional Trophy, adding more silverware to their trophy cabinet.

The winner of the country's best chardonnay for 2018 was the 2017 A. Rodda Wines Willow Lake Vineyard Chardonnay from the Yarra Valley.

Although the Yarra Valley is home to the Langton's James Halliday Chardonnay Challenge, the region had not yet won the top gold of the competition until this year, denying the Margaret River with a third win or the Adelaide Hills with a second.

James Halliday's love for Australian chardonnay is no secret and it seems other wine experts around the world are starting to rediscover the beauty of this versatile grape.

"The bigger picture sees Australian chardonnay with a growing reputation among leading wine critics in the UK and the USA, and a coherent approach by our winemakers to the vinification and style of the wine," said James.

"The cool 2017 vintage in the Yarra Valley resulted in purity, finesse and length in many lovely chardonnays. Adrian Rodda's wine is a prime example."

The Langton's James Halliday Chardonnay Challenge seeks to find the best chardonnay in the country in each given year, with all wines assessed in regional classifications by a panel of judges.

The Chair of Judges for the first time, was senior wine judge and Crown Melbourne's General Manager – Beverage, Chris Crawford who led five panel judges and 10 associate judges over three days to assess all wines without any hint of the producer or vineyard.

Chris said the decision was very difficult but the 2017 A. Rodda Wines Willow Lake Chardonnay had a particular expression and attractiveness which won on the day.

"The wine showed elegance, balance and purity, with plenty of flint and pithy, zesty fruit, it had lovely texture and persistence," said Chris.

The judges award a trophy to the top wine of each region but only in the instance where a wine from represented regions score more than 95 points.

In 2018, eight regional winners were awarded from the Adelaide Hills, Beechworth, Hunter Valley, Margaret River, Mornington Peninsula, Tasmania, Tumbarumba and the Yarra Valley.

Chardonnay lovers can find out more about this year's Langton's James Halliday Chardonnay Challenge winners by viewing the announcement by James Halliday via the following link - [chardonnaychallenge.com.au](http://chardonnaychallenge.com.au)

ENDS.

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*All media enquiries and requests for interviews with Chris Crawford or Adrian Rodda and images please contact:*

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**More information:**

*2018 Winner*

2017 A. Rodda Wines Willow Lake Vineyard Chardonnay, 97 points

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*Regional Winners*

- Adelaide Hills: 2017 Shaw + Smith Lenswood Vineyard Chardonnay, 97 points
- Beechworth: 2016 Indigo Vineyard Secret Village Chardonnay, 95 points
- Hunter Valley: 2017 First Creek Wines Winemaker's Reserve Chardonnay, 95 points
- Margaret River: 2017 Stella Bella Wines Suckfizzle Chardonnay, 96 points
- Mornington Peninsula: 2016 Handpicked Wines Capella Vineyard Chardonnay, 96 points
- Tasmania: 2016 Shy Susan Wines Chardonnay, 96 points
- Tumbarumba: 2017 Boutique Wines by Charles Sturt University Chardonnay, 95 points
- Yarra Valley: 2017 A. Rodda Wines Willow Lake Vineyard Chardonnay, 97 points

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