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MEDIA RELEASE
WINNERS ANNOUNCED

**MELBOURNE FAVOURITE TAKES HOME TOP HONOUR AT THE
2026 AUSTRALIA'S WINE LIST OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

Images for editorial use are available [here](#)

The results of [Australia's Wine List of the Year Awards](#) are in, and Melbourne stalwart **Society** has been crowned **Australia's Wine List of the Year**. Celebrating its 33rd Anniversary, the Awards ceremony was presented at NSW Parliament House in Sydney where more than 300 of the industry's finest gathered on Monday, 28 September.

In addition to the major trophy, Society also picked another three major titles including **Australia's Best Capital City Dining Wine List**, **Best Wine List Victoria** and **Australia's Best List of Wines by the Glass**. The venue was also a finalist in another three categories: Australia's Best Listing of Victorian Wines; Australia's Best Listing of New Zealand Wines; and Australia's Best Listing of Cellared and Museum Wines. Society's Head Sommeliers **Loïc Avril**, **Yuki Hirose MS** and Sommelier **Lee Sangyeop** were awarded the prestigious Judy Hirst Award, which is awarded to the sommeliers responsible for the winning list.

Other front runners for this year's awards include Perth's **Gibney** which was awarded Best Wine List WA; Australia's Best Digestif List, and The Peter Forrestal Award for Australia's Best Listing of Western Australian Wines. Gibney was also a finalist for four categories including the major title of Australia's Wine List of the Year 2026 with judges noting the list's depth and balance of well-known and up-and-coming producers. Sydney's **Altitude Restaurant** at the Shangri-La also took home three titles with judges praising the comprehensive list that also highlights some "left-of-centre" options for those looking to explore.

This year's state and territory stand-outs included **The Boat House** (Best Wine List ACT); **Shell House Dining Room & Terrace** (Best Wine List NSW); **Otto Brisbane** (Best Wine List QLD); **2KW Bar + Restaurant** (Best Wine List SA); and **Black Cow Bistro** (Best Wine List TAS). It's the first time Shell House Dining Room & Terrace and 2KW Bar + Restaurant have taken out these major category wins.

Society's winning list was praised by **Chair of Judges Toni Paterson MW** for its impressive range and versatile offering to cater for those looking for something familiar or new.

"This ranks among Australia's and the world's great wine lists, exceptional in its vintage depth and curation and broad in both local and international scope. At heart, it's a celebration of quality in all its forms," noted Paterson.

"There are close to 90 wines by the glass, ranging from well-priced Australian favourites like MMAD Vineyard chenin through premium local chardonnay from By Farr and Tolpuddle to icon reds including Mount Mary pinot, The Armagh and Grange poured from magnums. Rarities from further afield, including the likes of Benjamin Leroux 1er Cru Meursault or Domaine de la Pousse d'Or Chambolle-Musigny Les Amoureuses, are available as a taste, half-pour or glass."

Society, operated by the Lucas Group, opened in 2021 and first entered Australia's Wine List of the Year Awards in 2023 where it picked up the award of Australia's Best Listing of French Wines. Since then, it has



continued to build its reputation by taking out the same category in 2024, and for the third year in a row in 2025 alongside Australia's Best Listing of Museum & Rare Wines and Australia's Best Digestif List. It's the third year in a row that a Victorian venue has won the coveted title, with Circl taking out the win last year and Gimlet at Cavendish House in 2024.

On this year's results, **Chair of Judges Toni Paterson MW** commented: *"Despite recent challenges, our restaurant sector has great energy, with fabulous wine and beverage lists compiled by confident, knowledgeable sommeliers...The best lists are showing greater support for Australian wines, including those from their home state, which is heartening, especially when local wines represent excellent value, are better than ever, and offer great style and varietal diversity."*

"This year has seen the rise of grenache, mini-cocktails, chilled reds and small pours by the glass, the latter encouraging experimentation while staying mindful of cost. The international offering is incredibly varied, allowing people to explore the world of wine without leaving our shores. We have also seen a wider range of cuisines and menu formats, with share plates increasingly popular."

An incredible eight venues were added to the Australia's Wine List of the Year Awards - Hall of Fame. To be applicable, venues must have won Australia's Wine List of the Year once or a State/Territory or Australian category Award three times while also maintaining their glass rating each year. Among the new inductees for 2026 were Circl (Australia's Wine List of the Year); Agnes (Best Listing of Queensland Wines 2023, 2024, 2025); Fico (Best Listing of Tasmanian Wines 2021, 2022, 2025); Settlers Tavern (Best Country Restaurant 2022, 2023, 2025); Woodcut (Best Hotel List 2023, 2024, 2025); Society (Best Listing of French Wines 2023, 2024, 2025); Hardy's Verandah Restaurant (Best Listing of South Australian Wines 2017, 2021, 2025).

Additionally, Amanda Yallop of Fink Group was added to the Australia's Wine List of the Year Awards - Hall of Fame. This prestigious award is presented periodically to recognise an outstanding individual and their contribution to industry education, the service of fine wine and the standard of wine lists within the Australian hospitality and tourism industries over recent times. She is only the third individual in 33 years to receive this honour and joins David Lawler (2018) and Franck Moreau MS (2014).

Australia's Wine List of the Year Awards was established in 1993 by Rob Hirst OAM and his late wife, Judy, after whom the main Award is named, together with Tucker Seabrook. The awards honour the time, skill, and resources that go into developing the highest-quality wine lists and pay tribute to the talented sommeliers, owners, their teams and the cellars behind them.

2026 continued to showcase the breadth and depth of Australia's wine lists with another year of record entry numbers from across the country. Hirst says of this year's results: *"It is wonderful to see the outstanding level of support for the Australia's Wine List of the Year Awards again this year and the recognition that they deliver to those in the industry continuing to pursue excellence with the list they present to their customers. The quality of wine lists across the country has never been better"*.

"These awards are about the recognition and celebration of the outstanding commitment, work and investment of the sommeliers, owners, beverage directors, venue managers and entrepreneurs who make Australia's hospitality industry one of the best in the world. We congratulate all award winners and glass-rated venues for their achievements this year."

New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland saw the most growth in terms of entries, while the fastest growing type of trade categories were Australia's Best City Restaurant List and Australia's Best Hotel Wine List. Once again, Australia's Best List of Wines by the Glass and Australia's Best Listing of Australian Wines received



the highest number of nominations while the most keenly contested category was Australia's Best Wine List (Max 100 Wines).

This year, **Toni Paterson MW**, herself a fourteen-year judge of the Awards and immediate past Deputy Chair, has led the judging panel as the Awards Chair of Judges. It follows **Peter Forrestal** stepping down as Chair of Judges and assuming the role as Emeritus Chair after 33 years as a judge –and 23 as Chair– of Judges of Australia's Wine List of the Year Awards. **Jeni Port** continued as the Awards Deputy Chair and **Brian Julyan**, MS President and Founder of the Court of Master Sommeliers Europe also continued as International Chair of the Awards.

The Australia's Wine List of the Year judging panel comprises more than 35 renowned experts from Australia and internationally. This distinguished group includes Masters of Wine, Master Sommeliers, wine writers, commentators, show judges, and former Award winners.

Every submitted list is independently and confidentially appraised by judges. Criteria for evaluation include content, balance, appropriateness for the venue, presentation, and pricing structure. Submissions meeting the required standards earn a glass rating: One Glass for recommended lists, Two Glasses for excellent offerings, and Three Glasses reserved strictly for outstanding lists.

Following the initial assessment and scoring, the nation's premier wine lists undergo a comprehensive re-evaluation and ranking by the full Australian and International Panel to determine the winner of Australia's Wine List of the Year Award.

"Each year, these awards offer a compelling snapshot of the talent shaping Australia's hospitality scene. It was wonderful to see a number of admired names recognised again, alongside newer entrants bringing a fresh perspective and helping broaden the field. That balance of consistency and change is what keeps the industry moving forward and we're proud to partner with an awards program that celebrates the very best of Australian dining and wine culture," **Genevra Leek, Editor-in-Chief of Major Awards Partner Qantas Magazine | Travel Insider** said.

"After 33 years, Australia's Wine List of the Year Awards have become one of the most respected measures of quality in Australian hospitality. This year's record entry field shows how much that recognition means to venues. The Drinks Association is proud to support an initiative that continues to raise the standard of what an exceptional beverage list can be," **Georgia Lennon, CEO of the Drinks Association**.

For more information on Australia's Wine List of the Year Awards see [here](#).

STATE HIGHLIGHTS

NSW

New South Wales continued its strong presence in the Awards with a total of 16 major category wins. **Altitude Restaurant** led the way for the state with three major category wins for Australia's Best Listing of NSW Wines, Australia's Best Listing of Organic and Biodynamic Wines, and Australia's Best Hotel/Resort Dining Wine List. It was also a finalist for Australia's Best Listing of ACT and Canberra District Wines and Australia's Best Listing of Australian Wines.

Newcomer **Infinity by Mark Best** made an impressive debut with two wins: Australia's Best Listing of Australian Wines and The Tony Hitchin Award for Australia's Best New Wine List. Hall of Fame member **Jonah's Restaurant and Boutique Hotel** continued to make its mark by winning Australia's Best Food & Wine Matching List and the consumer-voted Australia's Choice Award.



Shell House Dining Room & Terrace won the overall Award for Best Wine List NSW, while inner-west favourite **ANTE** made its debut through the title of Australia's Best List of Japanese Sake. **Olympus Dining** was awarded Australia's Best Listing of Greek Wines for the second year running, and **Devine Food & Wine** won Australia's Best Aperitif for the third time, previously winning in 2018 and 2024.

Other highlights include Hall of Fame members **Rockpool Bar & Grill Sydney** acknowledged with Australia's Best Listing of Cellared and Museum Wines; **The Rover** being awarded Australia's Best Wine List (Max. 50 Wines) and **Me-Gal** being named Australia's Best Wine List (Max. 100 Wines).

VIC

Victorian venues took out a total of 10 major categories, with **Society** leading the way through its overall win alongside its titles of Australia's Best Capital City Dining Wine List; Best Wine List Victoria and Australia's Best List of Wines by the Glass. The Mornington Peninsula's **Ten Minutes by Tractor** added to its successful history with the Awards by winning Australia's Best Champagne List and Australia's Best Listing of Victorian Wines.

Another Mornington Peninsula local, **Laura** at Pt. Leo Estate, was acknowledged with the title of Australia's Best Country/Regional Dining Wine List. Last year's winner of the Tony Hitchin Award, **Maison Bâtard**, was awarded Australia's Best Listing of French Wines. **Florentino** marked its first entry under the stewardship of Edition Hospitality with the win of Australia's Best Listing of Italian Wines while sister venue **Reine & La Rue** was acknowledged with Australia's Best Listing of USA Wines.

WA

Perth's beachside brasserie **Gibney** continued its dominance as top performer for the West by taking out Best Wine List WA; Australia's Best Digestif List, and The Peter Forrestal Award for Australia's Best Listing of Western Australian Wines. It was also a finalist for four categories including the major title of Australia's Wine List of the Year 2026, Australia's Best Capital City Dining Wine List, Australia's Best Champagne List, and Australia's Best Cocktail List.

West Leederville's neighbourhood pub **Besk** celebrated back-to-back wins for the title of Australia's Best Beer List. **Foni Pollitt** of Hall of Famers **Mayfair Lane Pub & Dining Room** was acknowledged by her peers to be awarded the Sommelier's Choice Award.

SA

South Australia's charge was led by **The Crafers Hotel** which was awarded Australia's Best Pub Dining Wine List and Australia's Best Listing of South Australian Wine. **2KW Bar & Restaurant** were crowned Best Wine List SA, with judge Andrew Graham praising the list's 'Local Heroes'; selection championing cult-status SA producers alongside the up-and-coming.

Adelaide CBD haunt **A Prayer for the Wild at Heart** received Australia's Best Wine List (Max. 200 Wines) for the second year running, while **Restaurant Botanic** continued its streak of Australia's Best Non-Alcoholic List by winning it for the third year in a row.

Other highlights include CBD venue **Canopy** acknowledged with Australia's Best Cocktail List plus the Clare Valley's **The Rising Sun** made its debut with the title of Australia's Best Listing of a Single Region's Wines.

TAS

Launceston's **Black Cow Bistro** received the award for Best Wine List TAS with judges noting its diversity in producers and varieties across The Apple Isle. **The Agrarian Kitchen** in New Norfolk continued its



respected celebration of Tasmanian produce by securing the Award for Australia's Best Listing of Tasmanian Wines for the second year in a row and also being named as a finalist for Best Wine List TAS.

Hobart restaurant **Fico** was acknowledged as a finalist for Best Wine List TAS, Australia's Best Sparkling Wine List and Australia's Best Listing of Tasmanian Wines. Fellow Hobart local **Peppina** was also named a finalist for Australia's Best Hotel/Resort Dining Wine List and Best Wine List TAS.

QLD

Following its six inductions into the Australia's Wine List of the Year Awards Hall of Fame last year, **Cru Bar + Cellar** continued its dominance by being named Australia's Best Sparkling Wine List and Australia's Best Listing of New Zealand. The Fortitude Valley favourite was also a finalist for Australia's Best Listing of USA Wines.

Fink Group's **Otto Brisbane** was awarded the overall title of Best Wine List QLD, while Hall of Famers **Blackbird Brisbane** was named Australia's Best Listing of Queensland Wine for the second year in a row and a finalist for Australia's Best Listing of Organic and Biodynamic Wines.

ACT

Canberran Italian restaurant **Capitol Bar & Grill** celebrated its win as Australia's Best Listing of ACT and Canberra District Wines for the third consecutive year with judges noting its breadth of local producers from across eight regions. Following its induction into the Hall of Fame last year, **The Boat House** was awarded the title of Best Wine List ACT for its thoughtful selection of benchmarks and newcomers from the area. The riesling-led wine bar **Rizla** was also acknowledged as a finalist for Australia's Best Wine List (Max. 200 Wines) and Australia's Best Listing of ACT and Canberra District Wines.

ALL WINNERS OF AUSTRALIA'S WINE LIST OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2026

NATIONAL WINNER

Australia's Wine List of the Year
The Judy Hirst Award

Society, VIC
Loïc Avril, Yuki Hirose MS and Lee Sangyeop

STATE/TERRITORY WINNERS

Best Wine List ACT
Best Wine List New South Wales
Best Wine List Queensland
Best Wine List South Australia
Best Wine List Tasmania
Best Wine List Victoria
Best Wine List Western Australia

The Boat House
Shell House Dining Room & Terrace
Otto Brisbane
2KW Bar & Restaurant
Black Cow Bistro
Society
Gibney

TYPE OF TRADE AWARD WINNERS

Australia's Best Capital City Dining Wine List
Australia's Best Country/Regional Dining Wine List
Australia's Best Club Dining Wine List
Australia's Best Hotel/Resort Dining Wine List
Australia's Best Pub Dining Wine List
Australia's Best Wine Bar List -
The Fiona MacDonald Award

Society, VIC
Laura, VIC
Junction Moama, NSW
Altitude Restaurant, NSW
The Crafers Hotel, SA
bibo Wine Bar, NSW

**CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS****Australia's Best New Wine List –*****The Tony Hitchin Award*****Australia's Best Wine List (Max 50 Wines)****Australia's Best Wine List (Max 100 Wines)****Australia's Best Wine List (Max 200 Wines)****Australia's Best List of Wines by the Glass****Australia's Best Food & Wine Matching List****Australia's Best Champagne List****Australia's Best Sparkling Wine List****Australia's Best Listing of Australian Wines****Australia's Best Listing of ACT Wines****Australia's Best Listing of New South Wales Wines****Australia's Best Listing of Queensland Wines****Australia's Best Listing of South Australian Wines****Australia's Best Listing of Tasmanian Wines****Australia's Best Listing of Victorian Wines****Australia's Best Listing of Western Australian Wines*****The Peter Forrestal Award*****Australia's Best Listing of Organic &****Biodynamic Australian Wines****Australia's Best Listing of Cellared & Museum Wines****Australia's Best Listing of a Single Region's Wines****Australia's Best No-Lo Alcohol List****Australia's Best Aperitif List****Australia's Best Digestif List****Australia's Best Japanese Sake List****Australia's Best Beer List****Australia's Best Cocktail List****Australia's Best Listing of French Wines****Australia's Best Listing of Greek Wines****Australia's Best Listing of Italian Wines****Australia's Best Listing of New Zealand Wines****Australia's Best Listing of USA Wines****Best Wine List - Sommeliers Choice****Best Wine List - Australia's Choice (Consumer)**

Infinity by Mark Best, NSW

The Rover, NSW

Me-Gal, NSW

A Prayer for the Wild at Heart, SA

Society, VIC

Jonah's Restaurant and Boutique Hotel, NSW

Ten Minutes by Tractor, VIC

Cru Bar + Cellar, QLD

Infinity by Mark Best, NSW

Capitol Bar & Grill, ACT

Altitude Restaurant, NSW

Blackbird Brisbane, QLD

The Crafers Hotel, SA

The Agrarian Kitchen, TAS

Ten Minutes by Tractor, VIC

Gibney, WA

Altitude Restaurant, NSW

Rockpool Bar + Grill Sydney, NSW

The Rising Sun, SA

Restaurant Botanic, SA

Devine Food and Wine, NSW

Gibney, WA

ANTE, NSW

Besk, WA

Canopy, SA

Maison Bâtard, VIC

Olympus Dining, NSW

Florentino, VIC

Cru Bar + Cellar, QLD

Reine & La Rue, VIC

Foni Pollitt of Mayfair Lane Pub & Dining Room

Jonah's Restaurant and Boutique Hotel, NSW

AUSTRALIA'S WINE LIST OF THE YEAR AWARDS - HALL OF FAME 2026**NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS*****New Inductee* - Circl (2025)**

Gimlet at Cavendish House (2024)

Cru Bar & Cellar (2022)

Ten Minutes by Tractor (2021)

Jonah's Restaurant and Boutique Hotel (2017)

Lake House (2014)

Rockpool Bar & Grill, Perth (2014)

Pilu at Freshwater (2011)

Rockpool Bar & Grill, Melbourne (2010)



Rockpool Bar & Grill, Sydney (2009)
Aria (2003)

INDIVIDUAL WINNERS - HALL OF FAME 2026

***New Inductee* Amanda Yallop (2026)**

David Lawler (2018)
Franck Moreau MS (2014)

STATE AWARD WINNERS – HALL OF FAME – 2026

***New Inductee* Agnes (Best Wine List Queensland) 2023, 2024, 2025**

***New Inductee* Fico (Best Wine List Tasmanian) 2021, 2022, 2025**

Blackbird Brisbane (Best Wine List Queensland) 2017, 2018, 2020
Cru Bar & Cellar (Best Wine List Queensland) 2004, 2009, 2015
Rockpool Bar & Grill, Perth (Best Wine List WA) 2011, 2012, 2014

WINES OF STATE AWARD WINNERS - HALL OF FAME 2026

***New Inductee* Hardy's Verandah Restaurant (Best Listing of South Australian Wines) 2017, 2021, 2025**

The Boat House (Best Listing of ACT Wines) 2019, 2020, 2021
Cru Bar & Cellar (Best Listing of Queensland Wines) 2019, 2020, 2021
Lake House (Best Listing of Victorian Wines) 2017, 2018, 2023
Newcastle Club (Best Listing of New South Wales Wines) 2019, 2020, 2024
Pt Leo Restaurant (Best Listing of Victorian Wines) 2020, 2021, 2022
Settlers Tavern (Best Listing of Western Australian Wines) 2017, 2018, 2019

TYPE OF TRADE AWARD WINNERS – HALL OF FAME – 2026

***New Inductee* Settlers Tavern (Best Country Restaurant) 2022, 2023, 2025**

***New Inductee* Woodcut (Best Hotel List) 2023, 2024, 2025**

Bert's Bar & Brasserie (Best Hotel Restaurant Wine List) 2018, 2019, 2020
The Botanical Hotel (Best Pub Restaurant Wine List) 2012, 2013, 2014
Cru Bar & Cellar (Best Wine Bar List) 2015, 2021, 2022
Glass Brasserie (Best International Hotel List) 2008, 2009, 2010
Jonah's Restaurant and Boutique Hotel (Best Hotel Restaurant Wine List) 2015, 2016, 2017
Lake House (Best Restaurant Wine List - Country) 2008, 2010, 2013
Love, Tilly Devine (Best Wine Bar) 2013, 2016, 2017
Mayfair Lane Pub & Dining Room (Best Pub Restaurant List) 2019, 2020, 2023
Melbourne Supper Club (Best Wine Bar List) 2008, 2011, 2012
Members Dining Room - RACV City Club [as RACV City Club] (Best Club Restaurant Wine List) 2013, 2014, 2015
Newcastle Club (Best Club Restaurant Wine List) 2018, 2019, 2021
Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron (Best Club Restaurant Wine List) 2003, 2004, 2008
Settlers Tavern (Best Pub Restaurant Wine List) 2009, 2010, 2011
University House Club [as University Club] (Best Club Restaurant Wine List) 1995, 1996, 1997

OTHER CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS – HALL OF FAME – 2026

***New Inductee* Society (Best Listing of French Wines) 2023, 2024, 2025**

Aria (Best Sparkling List) 2017, 2018, 2021
Bennelong (Best Listing of Australian Wines) 2020, 2021, 2022
Café Sydney (Best Listing of Australian Wines) 2017, 2019, 2023
Chiswick, Woollahra (Best Small List-100) 2015, 2017, 2018



Cru Bar & Cellar (Best Wine by the Glass List) 2017, 2020, 2021
 Cru Bar & Cellar (Best Champagne List) 2018, 2021, 2022
 Ishizuka (Best Small List-50) 2020, 2021, 2022
 Rockpool Bar & Grill, Perth (Best Wine by the Glass List) 2013, 2015, 2023
 Rockpool Bar & Grill, Sydney (Best Aperitif) 2011, 2012, 2017
 Rockpool Bar & Grill, Sydney (Best Digestif) 2012, 2015, 2020
 Aria (Readers' Choice Award) 2011, 2012, 2013
 The European (Best Wine List - Max 100) 2010, 2011, 2012
 Spice Temple Melbourne (Best Wine List - Max 100) 2013, 2015, 2016

Ends.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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A special thanks to this year's Awards Partners and Supporters on behalf of the Industry and the Awards.

