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Tyrrell's shine with gold haul at top awards

The corks are off and Hunter Valley gold medal-winning wines are ripe for the picking, writes **John Lewis**.

"SUBLIME", "outstanding" and "some of the greatest semillons in recent history", said the 2013 Hunter Valley Wine Show judges – and now wine drinkers can buy 33 of the show's 48 gold medal-winning wines.

The annual show at Singleton is widely recognised as Australia's premier regional wine competition and this year attracted 730 entries from 78 Hunter producers.

The prize list was dominated by the Pepper Tree-Briar Ridge, Tyrrell's and Audrey Wilkinson-Poole's Rock brands.

Tyrrell's claimed four trophies and seven gold medals, Pepper Tree-Briar Ridge four trophies and five gold and Audrey Wilkinson-Poole's Rock three trophies and three gold.

The chairman of judges, McWilliam's chief winemaker Jim Chatto, told the crowd on Friday that it had been a pleasure to judge the wines from the outstanding 2011 and 2013 vintages, not only from the traditional semillon, shiraz and chardonnay varieties, but also from more emerging varieties like barbera and fiano.

Four wines, the Pepper Tree 2011 Limited Release Shiraz, the Audrey Wilkinson 2006 Museum Reserve Semillon, the Tempus Two 2003 Copper Zenith Semillon and the Tyrrell's 2007 HVD Vineyard Semillon received the exceptional score of 97 points out of 100.

The judging panel, which included overseas wine expert, Tokyo-based Master of Wine and wine writer Nick Goodwin, gave trophies to 21 wines, 17 of which are currently available.

Here are the prices and where to buy the trophy- and gold medal-winning wines:

Pepper Tree 2011 Limited Release Shiraz: \$35 at the Halls Road, Pokolbin, cellar door and at peppertreewines.com.au (Doug Seabrook Trophy for best red wine of show, Hector Tulloch Trophy for best currently available dry red, James Busby Trophy for best premium-vintage red, Elliott Family Trophy for best two-year-old red, 97-point top gold medal in 2011 and older shiraz class).

Audrey Wilkinson 2006 Museum

Reserve Semillon: \$100 (Petric-Drinan Trophy for best white wine of show, Maurice O'Shea Trophy for best currently available dry white, McGuigan Family Trophy for best premium-vintage dry white, 97-point top gold in 2011 and older semillon class).

Leogate 2011 Western Slopes Reserve Shiraz: \$95 (Len Evans Trophy for best named vineyard wine of show, Drayton Family Trophy for best named vineyard dry red, gold medal in 2011 and older named vineyard shiraz red); and **Leogate 2011 The Basin Shiraz: \$95** (gold medal in 2011 and older named vineyard shiraz red) both available at leogate.com.au and at the 1693 Broke Road, Pokolbin, cellar door.

Tinklers 2005 U and I Shiraz: \$85 (John Lewis *Newcastle Herald* Trophy for best museum class dry red, gold medal in 2005 and older red class) at tinklers.com.au and at the Pokolbin Mountains Road, Pokolbin, cellar door.

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Semillons shine bright

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Margan 2011 Limited Release Barbera: \$40 at the 1238 Milbrodale Road, Broke, winery, at margan.com.au and in some wine stores (trophy for best any-vintage alternative varieties red, gold medal in 2011 and older other varieties dry red class).

Mount Eyre 2013 Three Ponds Fiano: \$25 at mounteyre.com.au and at Garden Cellars at Hunter Valley Gardens, Pokolbin (trophy for best any-vintage alternate varieties dry white, gold medal in 2013 other varieties dry white class).

Two Rivers 2013 Hidden Hive Verdelho: \$16 (Jay Tulloch Trophy for best current-vintage verdelho, gold medal in 2013 verdelho class) available at the 2 Yarrawa Road, Denman, cellar door, at tworivers.com.au and in shops and restaurants.

Tempus Two 2003 Copper Zenith Semillon: \$100 (Graham Gregory Trophy for best museum class dry white, 97-point top gold medal in 2005 and older dry white class).

Tempus Two 2005 Copper Zenith Semillon: \$50 (gold medal in 2005 and older dry white class); and **Tempus Two 2009 Copper Zenith Semillon:** \$35 (gold medal in 2005 and older dry white class) at tempustwo.com.au and at the cellar door on the corner of Broke and McDonalds roads, Pokolbin.

RidgeView 2011 Impressions Chardonnay: \$25 (96-point top gold medal in 2011 and older chardonnay class); **RidgeView 2009 Generations Reserve Semillon:** \$35 (gold medal in 2011 and older semillon class) and **RidgeView 2011 Impressions Shiraz:** \$30 (gold medal in 2011 and older named vineyard shiraz red), all available at the 273 Sweetwater Road, Rothbury, cellar door or at the website ridgeview.com.au.

Tyrrell's 2007 HVD Vineyard Semillon: \$30 in wine stores and Broke Road, Pokolbin, winery (Tyrrell Family Trophy for best named vineyard dry white, 97-point top gold in 2012 and older named vineyard semillon class).

Tyrrell's 2013 Vat 1 Semillon: \$40 from September at cellar door only (gold medal in 2013 semillon class).

Tyrrell's 2009 Vat 47 Chardonnay: \$75 in wine stores and cellar door (gold medal in 2011 and older chardonnay class).

Pepper Tree 2010 Alluvius Single Vineyard Semillon: \$45 (gold in 2012 and older named vineyard semillon class);

Pepper Tree 2011 Tallawanta Grand Reserve Shiraz: \$70; and **Pepper Tree 2011 Coquun Single Vineyard Shiraz:** \$55 (gold medals in 2011 and older shiraz class) all available at the Halls Road, Pokolbin, cellar door and at peppertreewines.com.au.

Briar Ridge 2013 Dairy Hill Single Vineyard Semillon: \$32 at briarridge.com.au and at the winery in Mount View Road, Mount View (gold medal in 2013 named vineyard semillon class).

Andrew Thomas 2007 Braemore Cellar Reserve Semillon: \$45 (gold medal in 2012 and older named vineyard semillon class); and **Andrew Thomas 2013 Braemore Semillon:** \$28 (gold medal in 2013 semillon class) both available at thomaswine.com.au and at the Small Winemakers' Centre, in McDonalds Road, Pokolbin.

Hart and Hunter 2013 The Ramparts Semillon: \$30 at hartandhunter.com.au and at the Small Winemakers' Centre in McDonalds Road, Pokolbin (gold medal in 2013 semillon class).

Wandin Valley 2011 Shiraz: \$25 at wandinhuntervalley.com.au and at the 12 Wilderness Road, Lovedale, winery (gold medal in 2011 and older shiraz class).

De luliis 2009 Limited Release Shiraz: \$60 at dewine.com.au and at the Broke Road, Pokolbin, winery (gold medal in 2011 and older shiraz class).

Tulloch 2011 Private Bin Pokolbin Dry Red: \$50 and **Tulloch 2011 Pokolbin Dry Red:** \$25 (gold medals in 2011 and older shiraz class) and **Tulloch 2011 JYT Selection Semillon:** \$25 (gold medal in 2011 and older semillon class), all available at tullochwines.com and at the cellar door on the corner of McDonalds and De Beyers roads, Pokolbin.

Poole's Rock 2009 Semillon: \$40 at cockfightersghost.com.au and in fine wine stores (gold medal in 2011 and older semillon class).

First Creek 2010 Winemaker's Reserve Semillon: \$40 in very small quantities at the 600 McDonalds Road, Pokolbin, winery and at firstcreekwines.com.au (gold medal in 2011 and older semillon class).

Allandale 2007 Semillon: \$30 at the 132 Lovedale Road, Lovedale, winery and at allandalewinery.com.au (gold medal in 2011 and older semillon class).

Marsh Estate 2011 Holly's Block Semillon: \$26.50 at Deaseys Road, Pokolbin, cellar door or at marshestate.com.au (gold medal in 2012 and older named vineyard semillon class).



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NERVOUS TINKLING: Glasses of wine ready for judging.

Picture: Peter Stoop



WE DID IT: Tyrrell's Mark Richardson, Bruce Tyrrell, Chris Tyrrell and Andrew Spinaze with Iain Riggs, who presented the inaugural Wine of Provenance Award to the winery.

Picture: Peter Stoop