

2023 Hunter Valley Boutique Wine Show

Class 01



2022 Shiraz - 200 Litres

Judges: Mark Richardson, Nicole Gow, Brett Woodward, Jane Hoppe

Comments: A very good strike rate showing the work put in to produce balanced flavours local red. The best example had that extra intensity length and balance to shine through.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Milbrodale Farm Pty Ltd	Milbrodale Farm 2022 Complexity Shiraz	84	
2	Iron Gate Estate	Iron Gate Estate 2022 Primera Hunter Valley Shiraz	85	Bronze
3	Glandore Estate Wines	Glandore 2022 Cellarhands Shiraz	85	Bronze
4	Saddler's Creek Wines	Saddler's Creek Wines 2022 Saddler's Shiraz	85	Bronze
5	Thomas Wines	Thomas Wines 2022 Kiss Shiraz	95	Gold
6	Saddler's Creek Wines	Saddler's Creek Wines 2022 Ryan's Reserve Shiraz	91	Silver
7	Peter Drayton Wines	Peter Drayton Wildstreak 2022 Shiraz	83	
8	Thomas Wines	Thomas Wines 2022 Sweetwater Ridge Shiraz	95	Top Gold
9	Gunpowder Wines	Gunpowder Wines 2022 Shiraz	87	Bronze
10	Saddler's Creek Wines	Saddler's Creek Wines 2022 Alessandro Reserve Hunter Valley Shiraz	84	
11	Thomas Wines	Thomas Wines 2022 Elenay Shiraz	90	Silver
12	Horner Wines	Horner Wines 2022 Ablington Shiraz	84	
13	Vales Wines	Vales 2022 Old Flat Shiraz	88	Bronze
14	Cael's Gate Wines	Cael's Gate Wines 2022 Shiraz	87	Bronze

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Class 02



2022 Cabernet Sauvignon - 200 Litres

Judges: Mark Richardson, Nicole Gow, Brett Woodward, Jane Hoppe

Comments: Challenging

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Saddler's Creek Wines	Saddler's Creek Wines 2022 Winemaker's Craft Cabernet Sauvignon	84	
2	Cael's Gate Wines	Withdrawn		

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Class 03



2022 Merlot - 200 Litres

Judges: Mark Richardson, Nicole Gow, Brett Woodward, Jane Hoppe

Comments: Well made from a difficult year.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Tinklers Wines	Tinklers Wines 2022 PMR Merlot	83	

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Class 04



2022 Other Varieties or Blends - 200 Litres

Judges: Mark Richardson, Nicole Gow, Brett Woodward, Jane Hoppe

Comments: This class is getting stronger and stronger, really well made varied styles. Best examples show varietal character flavour and balance

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Peter Drayton Wines	Peter Drayton Anomaly 2022 Shiraz, Touriga Nacional	88	Bronze
2	Iron Gate Estate	Iron Gate Estate 2022 Primera Reserve Tempranillo	84	
3	Peter Drayton Wines	Peter Drayton Anomaly 2022 Barbera	92	Silver
4	Tranquil Vale	Tranquil Vale 2022 Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon	87	Bronze
5	Peter Drayton Wines	Peter Drayton Anomaly 2022 Montepulciano	95	Top Gold
6	David Hook Wines	David Hook 2022 Pinot Noir	84	
7	Peter Drayton Wines	Peter Drayton Anomaly 2022 Tempranillo	88	Bronze
8	Whispering Brook	Whispering Brook 2022 Touriga Nacional	90	Silver

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Class 05

2021 Shiraz - 200 Litres

Judges: Rauri Donkin, Will Figueira, Constance Griffiths, Jade Hafey

Comments: A surprising bracket of 21's , the better wines showed freshness of fruit and quality of the vineyard in a difficult year. Well done.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Glandore Estate Wines	Glandore 2021 Black Label Hamish Shiraz	82	
2	Tinklers Wines	Tinklers Wines 2021 Old Vines 1948 Shiraz	85	Bronze
3	Stomp Wines	Stomp 2021 Limited Release Shiraz	90	Silver
4	Whispering Brook	Whispering Brook 2021 Shiraz	84	
5	Thomas Wines	Thomas Wines 2021 Elenay Shiraz	95	Gold
6	Lambs Valley Wines	Lambs Valley Wines 2021 Three Brothers Shiraz	84	
7	Comyns & Co.	Comyns & Co. 2021 Reserve Shiraz	84	
8	David Hook Wines	David Hook 2021 Shiraz	91	Silver
9	Tinklers Wines	Tinklers Wines 2021 Steep Hill Shiraz	85	Bronze
10	Mercer Wines Pty Ltd	Mercer Wines 2021 Limited Release Shiraz	96	Top Gold
11	Thomas Wines	Thomas Wines 2021 Sweetwater Shiraz	89	Bronze
12	Tinklers Wines	Tinklers Wines 2021 U&I Shiraz	84	
13	Thomas Wines	Thomas Wines 2021 Kiss Shiraz	95	Gold
14	Saddler's Creek Wines	Saddler's Creek Wines 2021 Ryan's Reserve Shiraz	84	
15	Comyns & Co.	Comyns & Co. 2021 Shiraz	84	
16	Cael's Gate Wines	Withdrawn		

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Class 08



2021 Other Varieties or Blends - 200 Litres

Judges: Rauri Donkin, Will Figueira, Constance Griffiths, Jade Hafey

Comments: The best wine displayed freshness, deftness of oak, true to variety, delicious. It would be good to see more alternate red varieties in the Hunter.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Peter Drayton Wines	Peter Drayton Anomaly 2021 Montepulciano	84	
2	Comyns & Co.	Comyns & Co. 2021 Shiraz Pinot	84	
4	David Hook Wines	David Hook 2021 Barbera	95	Top Gold
5	Comyns & Co.	Comyns&Co 2021 Reserve Shiraz, Pinot Noir	85	Bronze

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Class 09



Open Vintage Shiraz (Not 2021 or 2022) - 200 Litres

Judges: Rauri Donkin, Will Figueira, Constance Griffiths, Jade Hafey

Comments: Extremely diverse class, the better wines exhibited fresh fruit, balanced oak, crunchy acidity, poise and length. The quality is there in the Hunter Shiraz .

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Hunters Dream Estate	Hunters Dream Directors Reserve 2019 Shiraz	85	Bronze
2	Tinklers Wines	Tinklers Wines 2019 Shiraz, Viognier	83	
3	Thomas Wines	Thomas Wines 2018 Kiss Shiraz	96	Top Gold
4	Glandore Estate Wines	Glandore 2019 Cellarhands Shiraz	83	
5	Tinklers Wines	Tinklers Wines 2019 U&I Shiraz	84	
6	Thomas Wines	Thomas Wines 2017 Elenay Shiraz	95	Gold
7	Glandore Estate Wines	Glandore 2019 Hamish Shiraz	83	
8	Thomas Wines	Thomas Wines 2019 Elenay Shiraz	92	Silver
9	Hunters Dream Estate	Hunters Dream Directors reserve 2018 Shiraz	84	
10	Tinklers Wines	Tinklers Wines 2019 Old Vines 1948 Shiraz	83	
11	Mercer Wines Pty Ltd	Mercer Wines 2023 Shiraz Nouveau	90	Silver
12	Mercer Wines Pty Ltd	Mercer Wines 2023 Preservative Free Shiraz	89	Bronze

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Class 10

Open Vintage Cabernet Sauvignon (Not 2021 or 2022) - 200 Litres

Judges: Rauri Donkin, Will Figueira, Constance Griffiths, Jade Hafey

Comments: Cabernet is great in the Hunter, this wine shows development and lacks fresh.
However do not despair Cabernet works in the Hunter

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Hunters Dream Estate	Hunters Dream Directors Reserve 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon	84	

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Class 13



Museum Varietal or Blend (5 years of age and older) - 200 Litres

Judges: Mark Richardson, Nicole Gow, Brett Woodward, Jane Hoppe

Comments: Some good examples of Hunter Red better years and freshness being rewarded

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Glandore Estate Wines	Glandore 2018 Cellarhands Shiraz	88	Bronze
2	Hanging Tree Wines	Hanging Tree Wines 2018 Vista Series Shiraz Cabernet	84	
3	Thomas Wines	Thomas Wines 2017 Kiss Shiraz	86	Bronze
4	David Hook Wines	David Hook 2018 Old Vines Shiraz	92	Silver
5	Peter Drayton Wines	Peter Drayton Premium Release 2013 Shiraz	84	
6	Thomas Wines	Thomas Wines 2018 Elenay Shiraz	95	Top Gold
7	Glandore Estate Wines	Glandore 2017 Cellarhands Shiraz	84	
8	Peter Drayton Wines	Peter Drayton Wildstreak 2017 Shiraz	81	
9	Thomas Wines	Thomas Wines 2014 Elenay Shiraz	83	

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Class 14



2023 Semillon - 400 Litres

Judges: Rauri Donkin, Will Figueira, Constance Griffiths, Jade Hafey

Comments: A tough year for whites, the better wines displayed classic Hunter Semillon characters, freshness and balance of fruit and acid. A pleasure to judge.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Saddler's Creek Wines	Saddler's Creek Wines 2023 Alessandro Reserve Semillon	85	Bronze
2	Thomas Wines	Thomas Wines 2023 Braemore Semillon	83	
3	Krinklewood Estate	Krinklewood 2023 Semillon	83	
4	Mercer Wines Pty Ltd	Mercer Wines 2023 Semillon	85	Bronze
5	Briar Ridge Vineyard	Briar Ridge 2023 Black Cluster Single Vineyard Semillon	96	Top Gold
6	Iron Gate Estate	Iron Gate Estate 2023 Primera Hunter Valley Semillon	83	
7	Glandore Estate Wines	Glandore 2023 Black Label Elliott Semillon	84	
8	Allandale Winery	Allandale Winery 2023 Semillon	90	Silver
9	Briar Ridge Vineyard	Briar Ridge 2023 Dairy Hill Single Vineyard Semillon	95	Gold
10	Comyns & Co.	Comyns & Co. 2023 Casuarina Semillon	88	Bronze
11	TAFE NSW Kurri Kurri Campus	Intuition 2023 HV Semillon	84	
12	Saddler's Creek Wines	Saddler's Creek Wines 2023 Saddler's Semillon	82	
13	Thomas Wines	Thomas Wines 2023 The OC Semillon	92	Silver

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Class 15



2023 Chardonnay - 400 Litres

Judges: Rauri Donkin, Will Figueira, Constance Griffiths, Jade Hafey

Comments: Varied styles, the better wine showed balance between oak a fruit.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Iron Gate Estate	Iron Gate Estate 2023 Primera Chardonnay	85	Bronze
2	Lambs Valley Wines	Lambs Valley Wines 2023 Charleroi Chardonnay	84	
3	Peter Drayton Wines	Peter Drayton Wildstreak 2023 Chardonnay	88	Bronze

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Class 16



2023 Verdelho - 400 Litres

Judges: Rauri Donkin, Will Figueira, Constance Griffiths, Jade Hafey

Comments: Even class the better wine displayed fresh aromatics, balanced acidity and sugar, a delicious drink.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Peter Drayton Wines	Peter Drayton Wildstreak 2023 Verdelho	87	Bronze
2	Hanging Tree Wines	Hanging Tree Wines 2023 Verdelho	84	
3	Saddler's Creek Wines	Saddler's Creek Wines 2023 Saddler's Verdelho	95	Top Gold
4	Iron Gate Estate	Iron Gate Estate 2023 Hunter Valley Verdelho	88	Bronze
5	Tinklers Wines	Tinklers Wines 2023 Lucerne Paddock Verdelho	87	Bronze
6	Stomp Wines	Stomp 2023 Verdelho	82	
7	Allandale Winery	Allandale Winery 2023 Verdelho	82	

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Class 17

2023 Other Varieties or Blends - 400 Litres

Judges: Rauri Donkin, Will Figueira, Constance Griffiths, Jade Hafey

Comments: A very diverse array of single varieties and blends, many single varieties still finding their feet. A lovely Viognier, Gewurtztraminer and Vermentino caused robust discussions. The top wine displayed varietal definition, freshness and depth.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Mercer Wines Pty Ltd	Mercer Wines 2023 Vermentino	95	Top Gold
2	Comyns & Co.	Comyns & Co. 2023 Riesling, Gruner Veltliner	90	Silver
3	Thomas Wines	Thomas Wines 2023 Vat 32 Semillon, Chardonnay	85	Bronze
4	Saddler's Creek Wines	Saddler's Creek Wines 2023 Saddler's Wild White	84	
5	Peter Drayton Wines	Peter Drayton Anomaly 2023 Viognier	90	Silver
6	David Hook Wines	David Hook 2023 Pecorino	85	Bronze
7	Glandore Estate Wines	Glandore 2023 White Label Gewürztraminer	90	Silver
8	Iron Gate Estate	Iron Gate Estate Portero 2023	84	
9	Horner Wines	Horner Wines 2023 ASH Marsanne	84	
10	Stomp Wines	Stomp 2023 Limited Release Fiano	85	Bronze
11	Glandore Estate Wines	Glandore 2023 White Label Vermentino	83	
12	David Hook Wines	david hook 2023 Pinot Grigio	84	
13	Peter Drayton Wines	Peter Drayton Anomaly 2023 Vermentino	93	Silver
14	Glandore Estate Wines	Glandore 2023 White Label Fiano	85	Bronze
15	Vales Wines	Vales Wines 2023 Muscat De Hambourg Muscat	84	

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Class 18



2022 Semillon - 200 Litres

Judges: Mark Richardson, Nicole Gow, Brett Woodward, Jane Hoppe

Comments: Varying style from a year that encouraged this, the better wine had purity of fruit and the hallmark line and length needed for great Hunter Semillon.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Mercer Wines Pty Ltd	Mercer Wines 2022 Limited Release Semillon	95	Top Gold
2	Tinklers Wines	Tinklers Wines 2022 School Block Semillon	84	
3	Allandale Winery	Allandale Winery 2022 Semillon	88	Bronze
4	Thomas Wines	Thomas Wines 2022 Cellar Reserve Braemore Semillon	90	Silver
5	Glandore Estate Wines	Glandore 2022 Cellarhands Oakey Creek Semillon	84	
6	Whispering Brook	Whispering Brook 2022 Semillon	88	Bronze
7	Cael's Gate Wines	Cael's Gate Wines 2022 Semillon	80	

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Class 19



2022 Chardonnay - 200 Litres

Judges: Mark Richardson, Nicole Gow, Brett Woodward, Jane Hoppe

Comments: Over oaking under fruiting and ripeness issue on show, the best examples are pure fresh and complex, two differing styles both well made

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Bonvilla Estate	Bonvilla Estate 2022 Single Vineyard Chardonnay	83	
2	Allandale Winery	Allandale Winery 2022 Chardonnay	83	
3	Saddler's Creek Wines	Saddler's Creek Wines 2022 Ryan's Reserve Chardonnay	88	Bronze
4	Comyns & Co.	Comyns&Co 2022 Reserve Chardonnay	84	
5	Tinklers Wines	Tinklers Wines 2022 Poppys Chardonnay	95	Gold
6	Briar Ridge Vineyard	Briar Ridge 2022 Briar Hill Single Vineyard Chardonnay	96	Top Gold
7	David Hook Wines	David Hook Old Vines 2022 Chardonnay	87	Bronze
8	Tinklers Wines	Tinklers Wines 2022 Hill Chardonnay	87	Bronze
9	Iron Gate Estate	Iron Gate Estate 2022 Primera Chardonnay	87	Bronze

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Class 20



2022 Verdelho - 200 Litres

Judges: Mark Richardson, Nicole Gow, Brett Woodward, Jane Hoppe

Comments: Simple forward rs out of balance

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	TAFE NSW Kurri Kurri Campus (S Block - Winery)	Intuition 2022 Hunter Valley Verdelho	83	

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Class 21



2022 Whites - Other Varieties or Blends - 200 Litres

Judges: Mark Richardson, Nicole Gow, Brett Woodward, Jane Hoppe

Comments: Very enjoyable class to judge, best wines showing varietal character and purity.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Thomas Wines	Thomas Wines 2022 Vat 32 Semillon, Chardonnay	90	Silver
2	Peter Drayton Wines	Peter Drayton 2022 Anomaly Viognier	84	
3	Whispering Brook	Whispering Brook 2022 Arinto	90	Silver
4	Horner Wines	Horner Wines 2022 Reserve Viognier	84	
5	Lisa McGuigan Wines	Lisa McGuigan Wines 2022 Vermentino	95	Top Gold

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Class 22



Open Vintage Semillon (2021 and older) - 125 Litres

Judges: Mark Richardson, Nicole Gow, Brett Woodward, Jane Hoppe

Comments: A interesting class to judge varied styles showing winemaker a vintage variation. Best wines showing purity and complexity

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Tinklers Wines	Tinklers Wines 2020 School Block Semillon	85	Bronze
2	Hunters Dream Estate	Hunters Dream Directors Reserve 2018 Semillon	82	
3	Tinklers Wines	Tinklers Wines 2021 School Block Semillon	85	Bronze
4	Thomas Wines	Thomas Wines 2017 Cellar Reserve Braemore Semillon	90	Silver
5	Tinklers Wines	Tinklers Wines 2018 School Block Semillon	85	Bronze
6	Tinklers Wines	Tinklers Wines 2017 School Block Semillon	90	Silver
7	Hanging Tree Wines	Hanging Tree Wines 2021 Semillon	83	
8	Tinklers Wines	Tinklers Wines 2017 Reserve Semillon	92	Silver
9	Tinklers Wines	Tinklers Wines 2019 Reserve Semillon	95	Top Gold

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Class 23

Open Vintage Chardonnay (2021 and older) - 125 Litres

Judges: Mark Richardson, Nicole Gow, Brett Woodward, Jane Hoppe

Comments: Bright balanced wine will be rewarded, be careful to check your samples before entry

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Hunters Dream Estate	Hunters Dream Directors Reserve 2018 Chardonnay	79	
2	Krinklewood Estate	Krinklewood 2021 Basket Press Chardonnay	92	Silver
3	Lisa McGuigan Wines	Lisa McGuigan Wines 2017 Chardonnay	86	Bronze

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Class 25

Open Vintage Other Varieties or Blends (2021 and older) - 125 Litres

Judges: Mark Richardson, Nicole Gow, Brett Woodward, Jane Hoppe

Comments: Solid wine styles to be encouraged

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Hanging Tree Wines	Hanging Tree Wines 2021 Semillon Chardonnay	91	Silver
2	Lisa McGuigan Wines	Lisa McGuigan Wines 2020 Gruner Veltliner	85	Bronze

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Class 26



Museum Varietal or Blend (5 years of age or older) - 45 Litres

Judges: Rauri Donkin, Will Figueira, Constance Griffiths, Jade Hafey

Comments: A privilege to judge. It's amazing to see producers holding back wines to show their full potential. The top wines, showed a differentiation of styles , balance of fruit and development, yet still retaining freshness. The best of the Hunter Valley.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Peter Drayton Wines	Peter Drayton Premium Release 2013 Semillon	95	Gold
2	Thomas Wines	Thomas Wines 2014 Cellar Reserve Braemore Semillon	95	Gold
3	Peter Drayton Wines	Peter Drayton Wildstreak 2018 Semillon	84	
4	Thomas Wines	Thomas Wines 2013 Cellar Reserve Braemore Semillon	96	Top Gold
5	Peter Drayton Wines	Peter Drayton 2017 Semillon	86	Bronze

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Class 27



Open Vintage Sparkling Wine - All Styles, All Production Methods - 125 Litres

Judges: Rauri Donkin, Will Figueira, Constance Griffiths, Jade Hafey

Comments: Some well put together styles, the younger wines should brightness nod freshness, however lacked depth and complexity. The better wines , displayed balance of dosage , freshness and length.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Hunters Dream Estate	Hunters Dream Cuvee 2018 Chardonnay, Pinot Noir	91	Silver
2	Peter Drayton Wines	Peter Drayton Wildstreak Sparkling 2022 Semillon, Chardonnay	84	
3	Iron Gate Estate	Iron Gate Estate 2023 Blanc de blanc Sparkling Chardonnay	90	Silver
4	TAFE NSW Kurri Kurri Campus (S Block - Winery)	Intuition 2023 Chardonnay Brut	84	
5	Hunters Dream Estate	Directors Reserve Sparkling 2017 Chardonnay, Semillon	84	

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Class 28

Open Vintage Rosé Style - 125 Litres

Judges: Rauri Donkin, Will Figueira, Constance Griffiths, Jade Hafey

Comments: A broad class which evoked vigorous discussion. Many wines looked over fined, and thin. The better wine showed a core of fruit, length, balanced RS and acidity.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Comyns & Co.	Comyns & Co. 2023 Rosé	84	
2	Peter Drayton Wines	Peter Drayton Wildstreak Rose 2023 Shiraz	83	
3	Grandis Wines	Grandis Wines 2023 Unearthed Rose	84	
4	Glandore Estate Wines	Glandore 2023 Rosé	85	Bronze
5	Saddler's Creek Wines	Saddler's Creek Wines 2023 Saddler's Tempranillo Rose	90	Silver
6	Iron Gate Estate	Iron Gate Estate 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon Rosé	85	Bronze
7	Stomp Wines	Stomp 2023 Rose Merlot	90	Silver
8	Tinklers Wines	Tinklers Wines 2023 Rose' Tempranillo	86	Bronze
9	Lisa McGuigan Wines	Lisa McGuigan Wines 2021 Shiraz, Merlot	84	

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Class 29



Open Vintage Sweet White Table Wine Greater Than 1 Be - 125 Litres

Judges: Mark Richardson, Nicole Gow, Brett Woodward, Jane Hoppe

Comments: Very good class well made sweeter styles

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Iron Gate Estate	Iron Gate Estate 2023 Sweet Semillon, Verdelho	85	Bronze
2	Tinklers Wines	Tinklers Wines 2023 Off Dry Gewürztraminer	90	Silver
3	Comyns & Co.	Comyns & Co. 2022 Little Sweetie Gruner Veltliner	95	Top Gold

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Class 30



Open Vintage Fortified Wines - 125 Litres

Judges: Rauri Donkin, Will Figueira, Constance Griffiths, Jade Hafey

Comments: Delicious , complete , nothing poked out , in balance, spirit, fruit and oak melded in harmony.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Tinklers Wines	Tinklers Wines NV UG Muscat	95	Top Gold

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Class 31

2022 Shiraz - 200 Litres

Judges: Mark Richardson, Nicole Gow, Brett Woodward, Jane Hoppe

Comments: Some well crafted wines from a challenging year, best examples showed honest bright regional fruit. Well handled.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Mount Eyre Vineyards	Mount Eyre 2022 Holman Shiraz	84	
2	Tintilla Estate Wines	Tintilla Estate 2022 Reserve Shiraz	92	Silver
3	Ernest Hill Wines	Ernest Hill 2022 Shareholders Shiraz	83	
4	RidgeView Wines	RidgeView 2022 Impressions Shiraz	95	Top Gold
5	Mount Eyre Vineyards	Three Ponds 2022 Shiraz	87	Bronze
6	Ernest Hill Wines	Ernest Hill 2022 CEO Shiraz	83	
7	Tranquil Vale	Tranquil Vale 2022 Shiraz	83	
8	Mount Eyre Vineyards	Honeytree 2022 Shiraz	88	Bronze
9	Silkman Wines	Silkman Wines 2022 Shiraz	91	Silver

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Class 33



2022 Merlot - 200 Litres

Judges: Mark Richardson, Nicole Gow, Brett Woodward, Jane Hoppe

Comments: Challenging year

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Lucy's Run Wines Pty Limited	Lucy's Run 2022 2 Horsepower Merlot	84	
2	Tintilla Estate Wines	Tintilla Estate 2022 Justine Merlot	83	

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Class 34



2022 Dry Red Other Varieties or Blends - 200 Litres

Judges: Mark Richardson, Nicole Gow, Brett Woodward, Jane Hoppe

Comments: A well crafted wines from varieties that the Hunter knows well. Best examples brightness and flavour.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Ernest Hill Wines	Ernest Hill 2022 CEO Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon	84	
2	Ernest Hill Wines	Ernest Hill 2022 Andrew Watson Tempranillo	88	Bronze
3	Silkman Wines	Silkman Wines 2022 Shiraz, Pinot Noir	91	Silver

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Class 35



2021 Shiraz - 200 Litres

Judges: Rauri Donkin, Will Figueira, Constance Griffiths, Jade Hafey

Comments: The bracket was dominated by oak , underpinned by thin fruit. The better wine, showed clever use of oak, balanced with fruit.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Bens Run Vineyard	Bens Run Shiraz 2021 Ltd Release	83	
2	Wombat Crossing Vineyard	Wombat Crossing Vineyard 2021 Hermit's Block Shiraz	83	
3	RidgeView Wines	RidgeView 2021 Impressions Shiraz	86	Bronze
4	Milbrodale Farm Pty Ltd	Milbrodale Farm 2021 Summertime Red Shiraz	82	
5	Talits Estate	Talits Estate 2021 Shiraz	84	
6	Tintilla Estate Wines	Tintilla Estate 2021 Reserve Shiraz	92	Silver

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Class 38



2021 Dry Red Other Varieties or Blends - 200 Litres

Judges: Rauri Donkin, Will Figueira, Constance Griffiths, Jade Hafey

Comments: Cabernet in the Hunter can be exceptional, don't let current scores sway you from it. The wine exhibited is 5 years old, however does show beautiful cabernet characters, depth of fruit, just lacking fruit vibrancy.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Adina Vineyard & Olive Grove	Adina Vineyard 2021 Cabernet Franc	83	

2023 Hunter Valley Boutique Wine Show

Class 39



Open Vintage Shiraz (Not 2021 or 2022) - 125 Litres

Judges: Rauri Donkin, Will Figueira, Constance Griffiths, Jade Hafey

Comments: A strong class , many wines looked tired , the better wines still had freshness of fruit and judicious use of oak that matched the density of the fruit.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	RidgeView Wines	RidgeView 2020 Effen Hill Shiraz	84	
2	Elbourne Wines	Elbourne Wines 2019 H.A.E Shiraz	90	Silver
3	Milbrodale Farm Pty Ltd	Milbrodale Farm 2019 Shiraz	85	Bronze
4	RidgeView Wines	RidgeView 2018 Impressions Shiraz	95	Top Gold
5	McLeish Estate Wines	McLeish Estate 2019 Reserve Shiraz	86	Bronze
6	Elbourne Wines	Elbourne Wines 2018 H.A.E Shiraz	84	
7	RidgeView Wines	RidgeView 2019 Impressions Shiraz	88	Bronze
8	Hollydene Estate Wines	Hollydene Estate Wines 2017 Show Reserve Shiraz	81	
9	Colvin Wines Pty Limited	Colvin Wines, DeBeyers Vineyard 2019 Shiraz	84	
10	Colvin Wines Pty Limited	Colvin Wines, DeBeyers Vineyard 2018 Shiraz	90	Silver

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Class 40



Open Vintage Cabernet Sauvignon (Not 2021 or 2022) - 125 Litres

Judges: Rauri Donkin, Will Figueira, Constance Griffiths, Jade Hafey

Comments: Hunter Cabernet has had a long tradition and in certain parts the valley produces excellent examples. If wine growers can hold out and let it hang even though the vintage is done, you can be rewarded. The top wine had dense fruit, structured tannins, bold and expressive.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	RidgeView Wines	RidgeView 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon	85	Bronze
2	McLeish Estate Wines	McLeish Estate 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon	95	Top Gold

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Class 41

Open Vintage Merlot (Not 2021 or 2022) - 125 Litres

Judges: Rauri Donkin, Will Figueira, Constance Griffiths, Jade Hafey

Comments: Two different style, one from a smoke tainted year, which showed and the other a brute of a wine , not shy , just needed elegance and restraint.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	RidgeView Wines	RidgeView 2018 Merlot	88	Bronze
2	Lucy's Run Wines Pty Limited	Lucy's Run 2020 Freya's Vintage Merlot	79	

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Class 42

Open Vintage Other Varieties or Blends (Not 2021 or 2022 - 125 Litres)

Judges: Rauri Donkin, Will Figueira, Constance Griffiths, Jade Hafey

Comments: A disappointing class, many wines showed tired or stressed fruit .

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	RidgeView Wines	RidgeView 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot	82	
2	Elbourne Wines	Elbourne Wines 2017 Olive Press Tempranillo	82	
3	Adina Vineyard & Olive Grove	Adina Vineyard 2017 Cabernet Shiraz	84	
4	RidgeView Wines	RidgeView 2019 Chambourcin	84	
5	Colvin Wines Pty Limited	Colvin Wines, DeBeyers Vineyard 2018 Sangiovese	84	

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Class 43



Museum Varietal or Blend (5 years of age and older) - 45 Litres

Judges: Mark Richardson, Nicole Gow, Brett Woodward, Jane Hoppe

Comments: A well made bright textural highlight - in amongst a lot of past their best wines

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Gartelmann Wines	Gartelmann Wines 2018 Wilhelm Shiraz	95	Top Gold
2	Hunters Dream Estate	Hunters Dream Directors Reserve 2014 Shiraz	83	
3	RidgeView Wines	RidgeView 2017 Impressions Shiraz	92	Silver
4	Bens Run Vineyard	Bens Run Vineyard 2017 td Release Shiraz	81	
5	Hollydene Estate Wines	Hollydene Estate Wines 2014 Show Reserve Shiraz	81	
6	Tintilla Estate Wines	Tintilla Estate 2014 Patriarch Syrah Shiraz	91	Silver
7	Ernest Hill Wines	Ernest Hill 2017 William Henry Shiraz	83	
8	Colvin Wines Pty Limited	Colvin Wines, DeBeyers Vineyard 2011 Shiraz	84	
9	Colvin Wines Pty Limited	Colvin Wines, DeBeyers Vineyard 2011 Sangiovese	84	

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Class 44

2023 Semillon - 400 Litres

Judges: Rauri Donkin, Will Figueira, Constance Griffiths, Jade Hafey

Comments: A pleasure to judge this class, in a late vintage the quality was outstanding .
The top wine showed purity of fruit , balanced acid and sugar.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Hunters Dream Estate	Hunters Dream Directors Reserve 2023 Semillon	96	Top Gold
2	Tintilla Estate Wines	Tintilla Estate 2023 Angus Semillon	84	
3	Two Rivers Denman	Two Rivers 2023 Reserve Stone's Throw Semillon	95	Gold
4	Tranquil Vale	Tranquil Vale 2023 Semillon	84	
5	RidgeView Wines	RidgeView 2023 Impressions Semillon	85	Bronze
6	Gartelmann Wines	Gartelmann Wines 2023 Benjamin Semillon	86	Bronze
7	Wombat Crossing Vineyard	Wombat Crossing Vineyard 2023 The Creek Flat Semillon	88	Bronze
8	Silkman Wines	Silkman Wines 2023 Semillon	84	
9	Silkman Wines	Silkman Wines 2023 Semillon	89	Bronze

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Class 45

2023 Chardonnay - 400 Litres

Judges: Rauri Donkin, Will Figueira, Constance Griffiths, Jade Hafey

Comments: Two wines provided a contrast of styles, one leaner , the other fuller. Both wines lacked layers of interest for Chardonnay.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	DeCapel Pty Ltd	de Capel Wines 2023 Henry Chardonnay	84	
2	Unruly Wines	Unruly Wines 2023 "Wild" Chardonnay	86	Bronze

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Class 46



2023 Verdelho - 400 Litres

Judges: Rauri Donkin, Will Figueira, Constance Griffiths, Jade Hafey

Comments: A board range of styles , many were too lean and acid driven, underripe, many could do with a tweak of RS, and some more fining .

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Wirral Grange Vineyard	Wirral Grange 2023 Verdelho	85	Bronze
2	Two Rivers Denman	Two Rivers 2023 Reserve Hidden Hive Verdelho	85	Bronze
3	Ernest Hill Wines	Ernest Hill 2023 Rosalie Joan Verdelho	84	
4	Gartelmann Wines	Gartelmann Wines 2023 Jessica Verdelho	90	Silver
5	Hanging Tree Wines	Hanging Tree Wines 2023 Verdelho	83	

2023 Hunter Valley Boutique Wine Show

Class 47



2023 Dry White Other Varieties or Blends - 400 Litres

Judges: Rauri Donkin, Will Figueira, Constance Griffiths, Jade Hafey

Comments: Wine looked forward and advanced, more freshness and vibrancy needed.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Wild Ren Wines	Wild Ren Wines 2023 Vermentino	84	

2023 Hunter Valley Boutique Wine Show



Class 48

2022 Semillon - 200 Litres

Judges: Mark Richardson, Nicole Gow, Brett Woodward, Jane Hoppe

Comments: A solid class. 3 excellent examples of 1 year old Semillons of differing styles showing variations in ripeness at harvest. A pleasure to judge

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Mount Eyre Vineyards	Mount Eyre 2022 Grosser Semillon	88	Bronze
2	Ernest Hill Wines	Ernest Hill 2022 Cyril Semillon	83	
3	Bonvilla Estate	Bonvilla Estate 2022 Arcachon Semillon	88	Bronze
4	Talits Estate	Talits Estate 2022 le raisin vert Semillon	83	
5	RidgeView Wines	RidgeView 2022 Impressions Semillon	84	
6	Two Rivers Denman	Two Rivers 2022 Reserve Stone's Throw Semillon	87	Bronze
7	Tintilla Estate Wines	Tintilla Estate 2022 Angus Semillon	84	
8	Mount Eyre Vineyards	Honeytree 2022 Semillon	87	Bronze
9	Hollydene Estate Wines	Hollydene Estate Wines 2022 Show Reserve Semillon	87	Bronze
10	Wombat Crossing Vineyard	Wombat Crossing Vineyard 2022 The Creek Flat Semillon	95	Gold
11	Silkman Wines	Silkman Wines 2022 Blackberry Semillon	96	Top Gold
12	Silkman Wines	Silkman Wines 2022 Reserve Semillon Semillon	95	Gold
13	Parched Crow Wines	Parched Crow Wines 2022 Semillon	84	

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Class 49



2022 Chardonnay - 200 Litres

Judges: Mark Richardson, Nicole Gow, Brett Woodward, Jane Hoppe

Comments: Very good class to judge, some very strong complexed varied examples from a good Chardonnay year

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	DeCapel Pty Ltd	de Capel Wines 2022 Henry Chardonnay	87	Bronze
2	Elbourne Wines	Elbourne Wines 2022 "Grace" Chardonnay	84	
3	Wombat Crossing Vineyard	Wombat Crossing Vineyard 2022 Malloch's Block Chardonnay	88	Bronze
4	Gartelmann Wines	Gartelmann Wines 2022 Sarah Elizabeth Chardonnay	87	Bronze
5	Hollydene Estate Wines	Hollydene Estate Wines 2022 Show Reserve Chardonnay	84	
6	RidgeView Wines	RidgeView 2022 Impressions Chardonnay	84	
7	Elbourne Wines	Elbourne Wines 2022 "Maluna" Chardonnay	90	Silver
8	Two Rivers Denman	Two Rivers 2022 Reserve Chardonnay	85	Bronze
9	Tintilla Estate Wines	Tintilla Estate 2022 Pebbles Brief Chardonnay	83	
10	Ernest Hill Wines	Ernest Hill 2022 Alexander Chardonnay	86	Bronze
11	Gartelmann Wines	Gartelmann Wines 2022 Lisa Chardonnay	92	Silver
12	Talits Estate	Talits Estate 2022 La Reserve Privee Chardonnay	95	Top Gold
13	Elbourne Wines	Elbourne Wines 2022 "Jack" Chardonnay	84	
14	Silkman Wines	Silkman Wines 2022 Chardonnay	95	Gold
15	Parched Crow Wines	Parched Crow Wines 2022 Chardonnay	85	Bronze

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Class 50



2022 Verdelho - 200 Litres

Judges: Mark Richardson, Nicole Gow, Brett Woodward, Jane Hoppe

Comments: Good example of both commercial and classic winemaking styles, a good year for this variety in the Hunter.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Two Rivers Denman	Two Rivers 2022 Reserve Hidden Hive Verdelho	91	Silver
2	Elbourne Wines	Elbourne Wines 2022 De Beyers Verdelho	93	Silver
3	Ernest Hill Wines	Ernest Hill 2022 Rosalie Joan Verdelho	84	
4	Mount Eyre Vineyards	Three Ponds 2022 Verdelho	84	
5	Hollydene Estate Wines	Hollydene Estate Wines 2022 Verdelho	90	Silver
6	Lucy's Run Wines Pty Limited	Lucy's Run 2022 Thelma The Great Verdelho	84	

2023 Hunter Valley Boutique Wine Show



Class 51

2022 Dry White Other Varieties or Blends - 200 Litres

Judges: Mark Richardson, Nicole Gow, Brett Woodward, Jane Hoppe

Comments: Small class of very solid other whites just lacking some polish or length

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Mount Eyre Vineyards	Honeytree 2022 Fiano	92	Silver
2	RidgeView Wines	RidgeView 2022 Little Gully Pinot Gris	85	Bronze
3	Mount Eyre Vineyards	Three Ponds 2022 Fiano	86	Bronze
4	Silkman Wines	Silkman Wines 2022 Gruner Veltliner	86	Bronze

2023 Hunter Valley Boutique Wine Show

Class 52



Open Vintage Semillon (2021 and older) - 125 Litres

Judges: Mark Richardson, Nicole Gow, Brett Woodward, Jane Hoppe

Comments: Very good class highlighting some great vintages for Hunter Semillon. The purity length and complexity of the top awarded wines came through.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Two Rivers Denman	Two Rivers 2021 Stone's Throw Semillon	86	Bronze
2	Wombat Crossing Vineyard	Wombat Crossing Vineyard 2016 The Creek Flat Semillon	84	
3	RidgeView Wines	RidgeView 2019 Impressions Semillon	84	
4	Tintilla Estate Wines	Tintilla Estate 2018 Angus Semillon	85	Bronze
5	Adina Vineyard & Olive Grove	Adina Vineyard 2017 La Belle Helene Sémillon	83	
6	Wombat Crossing Vineyard	Wombat Crossing Vineyard 2019 The Creek Flat Semillon	80	
7	McLeish Estate Wines	McLeish Estate 2009 Cellar Reserve Semillon	90	Silver
8	DeCapel Pty Ltd	de Capel Wines 2021 Josephine Semillon	81	
9	RidgeView Wines	RidgeView 2013 Impressions Semillon	92	Silver
10	Wombat Crossing Vineyard	Wombat Crossing Vineyard 2021 Semillon	84	
11	Tintilla Estate Wines	Tintilla Estate 2017 Angus Semillon	84	
12	RidgeView Wines	RidgeView 2015 Impressions Semillon	86	Bronze
13	Colvin Wines Pty Limited	Colvin Wines, DeBeyers Vineyard 2019 Semillon	84	
14	Colvin Wines Pty Limited	Colvin Wines, DeBeyers Vineyard 2018 Semillon	81	
15	Colvin Wines Pty Limited	Colvin Wines, DeBeyers Vineyard 2013 Semillon	95	Top Gold
16	Silkman Wines	Silkman Wines 2014 Semillon	90	Silver

2023 Hunter Valley Boutique Wine Show



Class 53

Open Vintage Chardonnay (2021 and older) - 125 Litres

Judges: Mark Richardson, Nicole Gow, Brett Woodward, Jane Hoppe

Comments: Good class of aged chard as always attention to oak use in making and sample need attention.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	RidgeView Wines	RidgeView 2017 Impressions Chardonnay	95	Top Gold
2	Wombat Crossing Vineyard	Wombat Crossing Vineyard 2021 Malloch's Block Chardonnay	85	Bronze
3	Krinklewood Estate	Withdrawn		
4	RidgeView Wines	RidgeView 2021 Impressions Chardonnay	84	
5	Wombat Crossing Vineyard	Wombat Crossing Vineyard 2015 Malloch's Block Chardonnay	83	
6	RidgeView Wines	RidgeView 2015 Impressions Chardonnay	90	Silver
7	Adina Vineyard & Olive Grove	Adina Vineyard 2018 Chardonnay	82	
8	Colvin Wines Pty Limited	Colvin Wines, DeBeyers Vineyard 2019 Chardonnay	86	Bronze
9	Silkman Wines	Silkman Wines 2021 Chardonnay	84	

2023 Hunter Valley Boutique Wine Show

Class 54



Open Vintage Verdelho (2021 and older) - 125 Litres

Judges: Mark Richardson, Nicole Gow, Brett Woodward, Jane Hoppe

Comments: Solid style

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	RidgeView Wines	RidgeView 2021 Eagle's Nest Verdelho	84	

2023 Hunter Valley Boutique Wine Show

Class 55



Open vintage Other Varieties or Blends - 125 Litres

Judges: Mark Richardson, Nicole Gow, Brett Woodward, Jane Hoppe

Comments: Good range of wines and styles purity texture and varietal expression rewarded

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Wombat Crossing Vineyard	Wombat Crossing Vineyard 2021 The Classic Semillon, Chardonnay	84	
2	Silkman Wines	Withdrawn		

2023 Hunter Valley Boutique Wine Show



Class 56

Museum Dry White Varietal or Blended (5 years of age and older) - 45 Litres

Judges: Rauri Donkin, Will Figueira, Constance Griffiths, Jade Hafey

Comments: The Hunter is known for its aged Semillon, and this bracket was the perfect example. The top wines showed vitality, freshness, shape energy and flow. Delightful to judge.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	RidgeView Wines	RidgeView 2017 Impressions Semillon	88	Bronze
2	Two Rivers Denman	Two Rivers 2017 Stone's Throw Semillon	85	Bronze
3	Ernest Hill Wines	Ernest Hill 2014 Cyril Semillon	83	
4	RidgeView Wines	RidgeView 2009 Impressions Semillon	88	Bronze
5	Gartelmann Wines	Gartelmann Wines 2018 Benjamin Semillon 100	96	Top Gold
6	RidgeView Wines	RidgeView 2010 Impressions Semillon	84	
7	Colvin Wines Pty Limited	Colvin Wines, DeBeyers Vineyard 2007 Semillon	93	Silver
8	Colvin Wines Pty Limited	Colvin Wines, DeBeyers Vineyard 2009 Semillon	95	Gold
9	Colvin Wines Pty Limited	Colvin Wines, DeBeyers Vineyard 2014 Semillon	95	Gold

2023 Hunter Valley Boutique Wine Show

Class 57



Open Vintage Sparkling Wines - all Styles, All Techniques - 125 Litres

Judges: Rauri Donkin, Will Figueira, Constance Griffiths, Jade Hafey

Comments: A broad range of styles, The 2020 reds looked forward and tired. The Semillon was juicy, fine and well balanced, the older wine had layers, complexity, just lacked a little finesse and restraint.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Hollydene Estate Wines	Hollydene Estate 2022 Kimba Sparkling Semillon	85	Bronze
2	Adina Vineyard & Olive Grove	Adina Vineyard 2020 Flora Sparkling Shiraz	84	
3	Wombat Crossing Vineyard	Wombat Crossing Vineyard 2018 Reserve Sparkling Shiraz	83	
4	Talits Estate	Talits Estate 2014 Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay	92	Silver

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Class 58



Open Vintage Rosé Style - 125 Litres

Judges: Rauri Donkin, Will Figueira, Constance Griffiths, Jade Hafey

Comments: A disappointing bracket, many wines looked forward and tired, others were overfined and lacked fruit concentration.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Bonvilla Estate	Bonvilla Estate 2021 Mia Rose	81	
2	Adina Vineyard & Olive Grove	Adina Vineyard 2021 Alicia Rosé	82	
3	Gartelmann Wines	Gartelmann Wines 2023 Veronica Rose Shiraz	85	Bronze
4	Wirral Grange Vineyard	Wirral Grange 2023 Rose	88	Bronze
5	Wombat Crossing Vineyard	Wombat Crossing Vineyard 2022 Jump Up Creek Rose	84	

2023 Hunter Valley Boutique Wine Show

Class 59



Open Vintage Sweet Table Wine greater than 1 Be - 125 Litres

Judges: Mark Richardson, Nicole Gow, Brett Woodward, Jane Hoppe

Comments: A pleasant way to finish the night with any of these wines and also the judging week.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	RidgeView Wines	RidgeView 2006 "Tipple's Gold" Botrytis Semillon	92	Silver
2	Hanging Tree Wines	Hanging Tree Wines 2021 Late Harvest Semillon	84	
3	RidgeView Wines	RidgeView 2018 "Tipple's Gold" Late Harvest Viognier	87	Bronze

2023 Hunter Valley Boutique Wine Show



Class 60

Open Vintage Fortified Wine - 125 Litres

Judges: Rauri Donkin, Will Figueira, Constance Griffiths, Jade Hafey

Comments: A refreshing class, both wines showed lifted spirit aromas and both would have benefitted from more time for the spirit, fruit and oak to meld together. Overall delicious and on the right track.

Entry	Exhibiting Company	Exhibit	Score	Award
1	Two Rivers Denman	Two Rivers NV Solera Verdelho	90	Silver
2	Parched Crow Wines	Parched Crow Wines 2019 Muscat	85	Bronze
