

2020 Gippsland Wine Awards

The Gippsland Wine Awards was one of the few wine shows to run this year. When it was clear that it could not proceed at its usual September timing, the Committee decided to delay rather than abandon the Show. This turned out to be a great decision as the show was well supported by both wineries and sponsors.

Judging this year took place on the 30th of November – again at the Criterion Hotel in Sale. The number of wines entered were down, but this reflected the difficult season and small or no crops for many in Gippsland in 2020.

The wines on show were of a consistently high calibre, particularly the Pinot Noir and the Chardonnay classes. Amongst the Pinot Noirs, 9 out of the 25 wines were awarded Silver or Gold medals and for the Chardonnays, 7 of the 16 wines were Silver or Gold. This is high praise indeed from the judges.

For Purple Hen, it was a wonderful Show. We achieved a number of firsts. It was the first time that one of our Chardonnays (the 2019) has won gold and the Awards for Best White Wine and Best Wine of Show. Also in a first, our 2019 Pinot Noir won gold and the Best Red Wine. We have never won both top red and top white at the one Show.

Our thanks to the Show Committee and judges for making the Show happen in this difficult year and our thanks to Mewburn Park Homestead (near Maffra) for hosting the Awards Presentation event – their venue is beautiful.