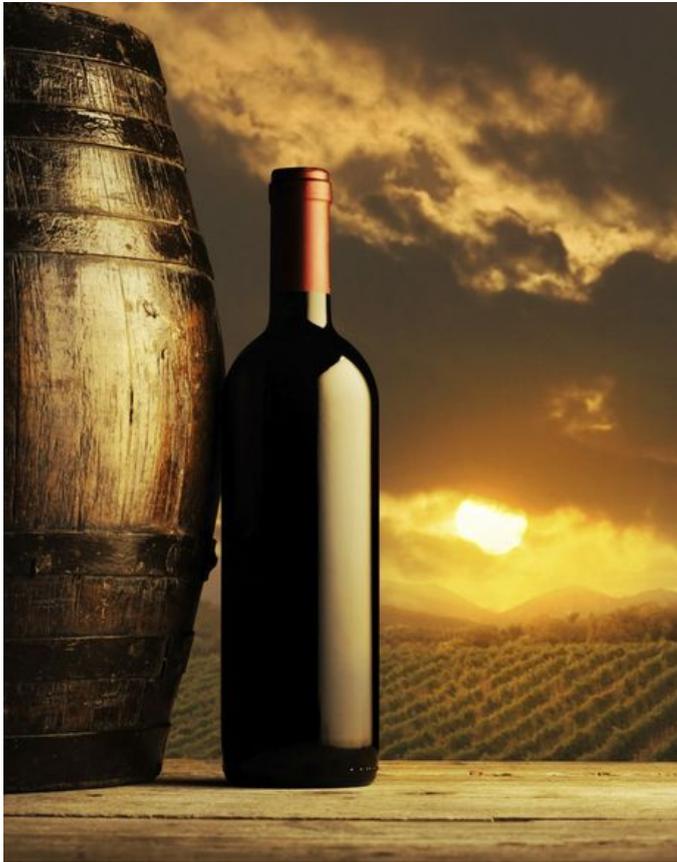


Eight wineries, lots of stars

Linden Morris | 1st Aug 2013 8:46 AM



AWARD WINNING WINERIES: Three Granite Belt wineries were awarded five stars in James Halliday's 2014 Wine Companion and another five received four stars. Photo Thinkstock.

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Golden Grove Estate - five stars

GOLDEN Grove Estate has been rated five stars for the first time.

Winemaker Raymond Costanzo said the winery was also named one of the 10 Dark Horse Wineries for 2014.

"I'm ecstatic - feeling great about the five stars and then to get named as a Dark Horse is just amazing," he said.

"It really is recognition for all the hard work the whole family has put in to the business."

Cellar door opening hours: Monday-Friday 9am-4pm, weekends 9am-5pm.

Symphony Hill Wines - five stars

SYMPHONY Hill Wines has gained a five-star rating.

Owner Ewen Macpherson said it was a real thrill.

"We got it for the first time last year and it's great to keep it," he said.

"We have been four stars or more for the last six years.

"Personally, it is a great third-party endorsement about what we are doing and passionate about.

"It is always a thrill to get this sort of rating coming through."

Cellar door opening hours: Seven days 10am-4pm.

Ballandean Estate Wines - four stars

BALLANDEAN Estate Wines have again been rated four stars.

Client relations manager Leeanne Puglisi-Gangemi said it was a great accolade and a wonderful thing to have.

"The big thing for us is that the region is going so well," she said. "It is more about getting people to come here and experience what we have and make

EIGHT Granite Belt wineries have received top honours in James Halliday's recently-released 2014 Wine Companion.

Boireann Winery, Golden Grove Estate and Symphony Hill Wines all received five stars while Ballandean Estate Wines, Ravens Croft Wines, Ridgemill Estate, Tobin Wines and Twisted Gum Wines all picked up four stars.

As a region that prides itself on its wineries and wines, these ratings will only help to boost the local industry's profile.

Wine critic James Halliday said the region had been producing excellent wines by any standards for the past 20 years or more.

"The key to the region lies in its altitude of between 600-1000m," he said.

"There is a kaleidoscope array of varieties in commercial production; these were the focus of the Strange Bird regional wine promotion put together some years ago."

All up there are 45 wineries in the Granite Belt.

In the 2014 Wine Companion Mr Halliday uses a five-star rating system.

Five stars: An outstanding winery capable of producing wines of very high quality, and did so this year. Also will usually have at least two wines rated a 94 points or above.

Four stars: Very good producer of wines with class and character. Will have two (or more) wines rated at 90 points and above (or possibly one at 94 or above).

Boireann Winery - five stars

BOIREANN Winery has again been given a five-star rating.

Owner and winemaker Peter Stark said the rating was he had managed to maintain for several years.

"We have had five stars for the last seven years and five red stars for about four years," he said.

"It is something that is really good and people to take you a bit more seriously. It also allows you to be able to sell wine easier and for closer to what it is worth."

Cellar door opening hours: Friday-Monday 10am-4pm.

sure they have a good time and come back."

Cellar door opening hours: Seven days 9am-5pm.

Ravens Croft Wines - four stars

RAVENS Croft Wines has earned a four-star rating for four years in a row.

Owner and winemaker Mark Ravenscroft said he was pleased with the rating. "We only make six wines so we are happy to be keeping our four stars," he said. "All our wines are premium and we only have one range."

Mr Ravenscroft said his focus was on keeping up the quality of his wines.

Cellar Door opening hours: Friday-Sunday 10.30am-4.30pm.

Ridgemill Estate - four stars

RIDGEMILL Estate has been rated four stars for the first time.

Winemaker Peter McGlashan was thrilled with the announcement.

"We are very happy and pleased that our hard work is starting to pay off," Mr McGlashan said.

"We are hoping it will raise the profile of the winery.

Cellar Door opening hours: Friday-Saturday and Monday 10am-5pm, Sunday 10am-3pm.

Tobin Wines - four stars

TOBIN Wines has worked hard and maintained its four star rating.

Owner Adrian Tobin said he was very happy.

"It is good to know people like your work," he said.

"Wine industry comment always helps and it helps get customers in the door.

"People love wine and I am happy to keep providing them with good wines."

Cellar Door opening hours: Seven days 10am-5pm.

Twisted Gum Wines - four stars

TWISTED Gum Wines has received its first four-star rating.

Tim Coelli, owner of the small environmentally friendly winery, said he was extremely happy.

"We are a very small winery and only make six wines and are pretty stoked to get four stars," he said. "We have only been sending wines to him for three years now and this is brilliant timing with our cellar door opening a few months ago."

Cellar Door opening hours: Weekends 10am-4pm.

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