

WYNNS
COONAWARRA ESTATE

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MEDIA RELEASE

Wynns' Sue Hodder and Sarah Pidgeon named 'Winemakers of the Year'.

Sue Hodder and Sarah Pidgeon from Wynns Coonawarra Estate, have been jointly named the 'Winemaker of the Year' at the 2016 Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology (ASVO) Awards for Excellence.

The ASVO Awards for Excellence, launched in 2012 and now in its 5th consecutive year, are highly respected awards in the wine community. The Awards were developed to recognise excellence and innovation in Australian wine. This year Awards finalists have been selected by panels of viticulture and winemaking experts chaired by ASVO Fellow Peter Hayes AM and 2013 ASVO Winemaker of the Year, Louisa Rose.

Hodder and Pidgeon were jointly recognised for their contribution toward developing Cabernet Sauvignon for the future; a 17 year partnership which has included an evolution of ideas about growing and making Cabernet Sauvignon.

Dr Mardi Longbottom, ASVO President says

"Sue and Sarah have demonstrated enormous commitment to the pursuit of winemaking excellence from the vineyard, through the winery, in their wines and, the extension of this, through their engagement with the broader wine community."

Wynns Senior Winemaker, Sue Hodder, is humbled by the award win.

"Receiving this ASVO award is a true honour. We worked hard on our submission and are proud that our effort is recognised by one of the peak bodies of the Australian wine community. It highlights a 17 year collaboration between Sarah and I, which has always had the ultimate goal of developing Cabernet Sauvignon for the future as its focus. We love Cabernet and Wynns, and our work ensures we don't rest on the laurels of past glory from Wynns' amazing heritage. We are all about ensuring Wynns Cabernet Sauvignon remains firmly on the international stage as a world player and benchmark for this most loved and scrutinised wine variety for years to come" she said.

Wynns Winemaker Sarah Pidgeon has worked alongside Sue for 17 years in what is often described as one of Australia's greatest winemaking partnerships.

"Wynns winemaking is a unique opportunity to work with fruit from vineyards that are amongst the best Cabernet Sauvignon sites in the world. The unquestionable quality and heritage is just a starting point at Wynns - the willingness as a team to challenge and stretch the Coonawarra styles to the diverse offerings in the Wynns wines today is the ultimate reward. The wines have never been as satisfying, diverse and frankly, as damn good, as they are right now. It's an exciting time to be at Wynns"

The Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology, founded in 1980, is a professional society to serve the interests of practising winemakers and viticulturists by encouraging the exchange of technical information.

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