

# BEST OF THE WEST

# wine

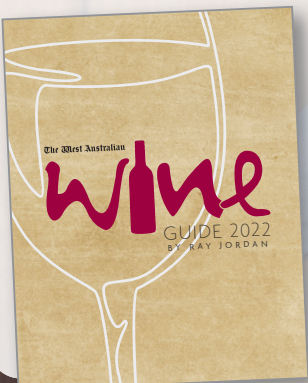
## GUIDE 2022

The West Australian  
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## Winemaker of the Year

**Glenn Goodall (Xanadu)**

Goodall would be the first to admit he is sitting on a tremendous fruit source at Xanadu and the more recently acquired Stevens Road vineyard, and has been blessed with some outstanding recent vintages.

But he must take a lot of the credit for revitalising the place once it was purchased by the Rathbone Group some years ago and then setting on a new course that has resulted in, year after year, some of the finest wines to come from Margaret River, and this southern part of the region in particular.

This year he has produced several great wines, including the reserve cabernet sauvignon, which I think is the finest yet released. But I was also fortunate to taste other wines not submitted for this guide, which also received very high points.

Both cabernet sauvignons and the chardonnay are wines of the highest order, and this year Goodall was mighty unlucky to have been pipped for best cabernet sauvignon and best chardonnay in the varietal categories.



## Greatest era of WA wines

If anyone was in any doubt about where Australia's best wines are coming from, they would be well advised to taste this selection of the Best of the West.

It is an extraordinary collection of both reds and whites that, from my perspective, was an honour to taste and assess. I can only hope that I have done them justice.

As you might expect, the 2018 vintage has continued to provide a significant number of the best wines. This vintage lays claim to being the finest ever in Western Australia, and whether it was chardonnay, cabernet, shiraz or various blends, it resulted in exceptional wines both at the premium level and value for money. It was also pleasing to see wines from the cooler 2019 emerge in the main chardonnays, while the promise of the 2020 vintage is starting to reveal itself, and I hold out great hope for the reds when they start to appear.

Once again, there were three wines that scored 99 points, the Moss Wood cabernet sauvignon, the

Leeuwin Estate Art Series chardonnay, and the Xanadu Reserve cabernet sauvignon, all from the remarkable 2018 vintage. There were also many super wines that scored 98 and 97 points, indicating the incredible depth in quality of wines from WA.

So, this was my problem. In my view, each of these wines were the finest their great makers have produced. So, it was tough – mighty tough – to make the choice.

You might ask, "why not give one of them 100?", like so many other writers do. In my view, no wine justifies 100 points, but oh my, these three pushed me all the way. In the end I opted for the Moss Wood, but it was oh, so close.

If you can, please get out there and taste some or all of these wines. You will be tasting from the greatest era of WA wines.

**Ray Jordan**  
The West Australian Wine Editor

## Wine of the Year

**Moss Wood cabernet sauvignon 2018 (\$150)**

A wonderful wine that expresses all that is good about Margaret River and this specific vineyard. I think this is the best yet from this iconic winery.

**Runner-up:**

Leeuwin Estate Art Series chardonnay 2018 (\$126).



**White Wine of the Year**

**Leeuwin Estate Art Series chardonnay 2018 (\$126)**

In a long line of great wines from this pioneering Margaret River chardonnay maker, I have to say this is the greatest yet. It was a great year and the subtle tweaks that have been made in recent years have led to this – a masterful chardonnay of world class.

**Runner-up:**

Xanadu Reserve chardonnay 2019 (\$110).



**Red Wine of the Year**

**Moss Wood cabernet sauvignon 2018 (\$150)**

As close to perfection as it gets from one of the great estates of Margaret River. There have been many great cabernets from this patch of dirt but, in my opinion, none greater than this one.

**Runner-up:**

Xanadu Reserve cabernet sauvignon 2018 (\$110).



## Winery of the Year

**Xanadu**

This pioneering Margaret River producer is now well established as one of the finest producers in the state. With a great viticultural and winemaking team headed by Glenn Goodall, the wines across the different price ranges have reached a level of quality and

consistency that is almost unmatched. The cabernets regularly win national awards and, of course, a few years ago scored big in winning the Jimmy Watson Memorial Trophy at The Melbourne Wine Show. And since then, the wines have actually gotten even better.

**Best of the West 2022 Winners of Best Shiraz**

*"...powerful and structured wine with that smooth elegance of Frankland River."*

**Best Malbec**

*"...a real force of nature, with high energy packed into every berry coursing through the lively palate..."*

**Amelia Park Reserve cabernet sauvignon 2018. Score 98/100**

*"....integration of chalky tannins and fine-grained oak to complete it is superb. Subtle leaf, blackcurrant and graphite with a sliver of black olive tapenade. So good".*

**-Ray Jordan**



# AMELIA PARK

[ MARGARET RIVER ]

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