

# James Halliday GRENACHE CHALLENGE 2025

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## Overall Grenache Classes Comments:

Judging the 2025 Halliday Grenache Challenge was a rewarding and thought-provoking experience for the judging team who brought a lot of positivity to the day. The sheer diversity of styles—from lithe, perfumed expressions to brooding, structured examples—spoke volumes about the varietal’s adaptability and the evolving philosophies and skill of Australian growers, viticulturalists and winemakers.

It was a privilege to assess wines that not only showcased regional nuance but also reflected a growing confidence with the variety across different regions. We would encourage producers to seek out some of these wines to use as benchmarks as there were still a number of samples which suffered from the susceptibility of Grenache to oxidation.

What stood out most was the vibrancy and precision of the top wines. They carried a sense of place, purity of fruit, and classic Grenache tannin structures. The challenge also highlighted the varietal’s continued renaissance, with producers pushing boundaries in terms of whole bunch use, extended macerations, different maturation vessels, and vineyard management.

The collaborative energy among the judging panel was engaging and there was definitely some robust discussions at times in what was turned out to be an extremely close contest for the winner. Ultimately, the Challenge reaffirmed the excitement around Grenache as part of Australia’s fine wine narrative.

**Judges:** Toby Barlow, Steven Paul, Jack Glover, Stuart Hordern, Louis Schofield, Sam Milne, Ashleigh Seymour, Ben Marx, Peter Richards, Julie Campbell, Patrick Gilhooly, Belinda van Eyssen, Alessandro Fraquelli, Jordan Pickles, Siddarth Pachare and Rachel McBryde.

Entry #	Exhibitor	Exhibit name	Score	Award
123	Hill-Smith Family Estates	Yalumba 2024 Vine Vale Grenache	97	Top Gold
45	Thistledown Wine Company	Thistledown 2024 Sands of Time Single Vineyard Blewitt Springs Grenache	97	Gold
87	Pannell Enoteca	S.C. Pannell 2023 Old McDonald Grenache	96	Gold
98	The Usual Suspects Collective	Ox Hardy 2023 McLaren Vale Grenache	95	Gold
17	Willunga Hundred Pty Ltd	Willunga 100 2024 McLaren Vale Grenache	95	Gold
147	Head Wines	Head Wines 2024 Ancestor Vine Grenache	95	Gold
132	Pauletts	Pauletts 2024 BMS Brielle Grenache	95	Gold
56	Pannell Enoteca	S.C. Pannell 2024 Little Branch Grenache	95	Gold
18	Aphelion Wine Co.	Aphelion 2024 Wait Single Site Grenache	95	Gold
112	Z Wine Pty Ltd	Z Wine 2025 Rustica Grenache	95	Gold
63	Ministry of Clouds	Ministry of Clouds 2024 Grenache	95	Gold
66	Cooter & Cooter	Cooter & Cooter 2024 Grenache	95	Gold
25	Serafino Wines	Serafino 2024 Reserve Grenache	95	Gold
86	Serafino Wines	Serafino 2023 Reserve Grenache	95	Gold
32	Hugh Hamilton Wines	Hugh Hamilton Wines 2024 The Disrupter Grenache	95	Gold
43	Berg Herring	Berg Herring 2024 Grenache	95	Gold
50	Penny’s Hill Estate	Penny’s Hill 2024 Single Vineyard Grenache	93	Silver
59	Mr. Riggs Wine Co.	Mr. Riggs Wine Co. 2024 The Magnet Grenache	93	Silver
109	Ministry of Clouds	Ministry of Clouds 2022 Kintsugi	93	Silver
10	Yangarra Estate Vineyard	Yangarra Estate Vineyard 2024 Old Vine Grenache	93	Silver
92	E.J.M Australia	E.J. McDougall 2023 Grenache	93	Silver
1	Brini Estate Wines	Brini Estate Wines 2025 B3 Grenache	93	Silver
114	Hill-Smith Family Estates	Yalumba 2024 Vat-11 Grenache	92	Silver
24	Mr. Riggs Wine Co.	Mr. Riggs Wine Co. 2024 The Bolter Grenache	92	Silver
70	Ministry of Clouds	Ministry of Clouds 2024 Spice Garden Grenache	92	Silver
40	Kay Brothers	Kay Brothers 2024 Basket Pressed Grenache	92	Silver
119	Naked Run Wines	Naked Run Wines 2024 The Aldo Grenache	91	Silver
30	Penny’s Hill Estate	Penny’s Hill 2024 Yeenunga Grenache	91	Silver
142	Mandoon Estate - WA	Mandoon Estate 2023 Old Vine Grenache	91	Silver

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104	Pannell Enoteca	S.C. Pannell 2023 Basso Garnacha	91	Silver
34	Pannell Enoteca	S.C. Pannell 2024 Basso Garnacha	91	Silver
12	Hedonist Wines	Hedonist 2024 Ecology Grenache	91	Silver
146	Thistledown Wine Company	Fool on the Hill 2024 Old Vine Grenache	90	Silver
46	Varney Wines	Varney Wines 2024 Limited Release Grenache	90	Silver
29	Willunga Hundred Pty Ltd	Willunga 100 2024 Trott Vineyard Blewitt Springs Grenache	90	Silver
54	XO Wine Co	XO Wine Co 2024 Small Batch Grenache	90	Silver
124	Head Wines	Head Wines 2024 Old Vine Grenache	90	Silver
55	Angove Family Winemakers	Angove Family Winemakers 2024 Warboys Grenache	90	Silver
60	John Hill Wines Pty Ltd	Organic Hill 2024 Founders Release Grenache	90	Silver
81	G. Patritti & Co	Patritti 2023 Lavoro Grenache	90	Silver
20	Wirra Wirra Vineyards	Wirra Wirra 2024 The Absconder Grenache	90	Silver
89	Zerella Wines	Zerella Wines Vito 2023 Grenache	90	Silver
36	Down The Rabbit Hole	Down The Rabbit Hole 2024 Grenache	90	Silver
118	Treasury Wine Estates Vintners Limited	Saltram Wine Estate 2024 Winemakers Selection Grenache	90	Silver
100	Chapel Hill Winery	Chapel Hill 2023 "1941" Old Vine McLaren Vale Grenache	89	Bronze
121	Brothers at War	Brothers at War 2024 Peacekeeper Barossa Grenache	89	Bronze
52	Willunga Hundred Pty Ltd	Willunga 100 2024 Blind Spot Vineyard Blewitt Springs Grenache	89	Bronze
122	Seppeltsfield Wines Pty Ltd	Seppeltsfield Wines 2024 Barossa Grenache	89	Bronze
77	Maxwell Wines	Maxwell 2024 Tiers of Wisdom Grenache	89	Bronze
134	Pauletts	Pauletts 2023 BMS Brielle Grenache	89	Bronze
57	Aphelion Wine Co.	Aphelion 2024 Hickenbotham Single Site Grenache	89	Bronze
15	Geddes Wines	Geddes 2024 Seldom Inn Grenache	89	Bronze
82	Hidden Fire PTY LTD	Hidden Fire Wines 2023 Hunt Road Grenache	89	Bronze
85	Big Easy Radio	Big Easy Radio 2023 Perpetual Holiday Grenache	89	Bronze
26	Chalk Hill Wines Pty Ltd	Alpha Crucis 2024 Old Vine Grenache	89	Bronze
80	Juxtaposed Wines	Juxtaposed Wines 2023 Shadow Creek Vineyard Grenache	89	Bronze
33	Shottesbrooke Vineyards	Shottesbrooke Vineyards 2024 Single Vineyard Grenache	89	Bronze
38	Yangarra Estate Vineyard	Yangarra Estate Vineyard 2024 Circle Grenache	89	Bronze
127	Kaesler Wines	Kaesler 2023 The Fave Grenache	88	Bronze
16	Thistledown Wine Company	Thistledown 2024 Vagabond Blewitt Springs Old Vine Grenache	88	Bronze
128	Pinnacle Drinks	Krondorf 2023 Founders View Barossa Grenache	88	Bronze
148	Brothers at War	Brothers at War 2024 Single Vineyard Eden Valley Grenache	88	Bronze
115	Seppeltsfield Wines Pty Ltd	Seppeltsfield Wines 2024 Great Terraced Vineyard Grenache	88	Bronze
83	Pannell Enoteca	S.C. Pannell 2023 Little Branch Grenache	88	Bronze
7	Aphelion Wine Co.	Aphelion 2024 Rapture Old Vine Grenache	88	Bronze
58	Precious Little	Precious Little 2024 Old Vine Grenache	88	Bronze
65	In Praise of Shadows	In Praise of Shadows 2024 Grenache	88	Bronze
71	Coriole	Coriole 2024 Grenache	88	Bronze
21	Mitolo Wines	Mitolo 2024 Harena Grenache	88	Bronze
31	Bondar Wines	Bondar Wines 2024 Hope Springs Eternal Grenache	88	Bronze
97	Grounded Cru	Grounded Cru 2023 Grenache	88	Bronze
73	Collett Wines Pty Ltd	Woodstock Wine 2024 Townsend Grenache	87	Bronze
150	Pinnacle Drinks	The Ethereal One 2024 Fleurieu Grenache	87	Bronze
76	Wines by Geoff Hardy	Wines by Geoff Hardy 2024 Gates Label Grenache	87	Bronze

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3	Oliver's Taranga Vineyards	Oliver's Taranga Vineyards 2025 Grenache	87	Bronze
125	Chateau Tanunda	Château Tanunda 2024 The Château Single Vineyard Grenache	87	Bronze
74	Blewitt Springs Wine Co	Blewitt Springs Wine Co 2024 Bush Vine Grenache	87	Bronze
151	Esilio Wines	Esilio Wines 2023 Wild Goose Chase Grenache	87	Bronze
39	In Praise of Shadows	In Praise of Shadows 2024 Akira Grenache	87	Bronze
5	Lloyd Brothers Wine	Lloyd Brothers 2025 Grenache	87	Bronze
6	Heirloom Vineyards	Heirloom Vineyards 2024 Alcala McLaren Vale Grenache	87	Bronze
23	Oxenberry Farm	Oxenberry Farm 2024 Grenache	87	Bronze
75	CW Wines	Cape Barren 2024 Old Vine Grenache	87	Bronze
91	VOK Beverages Pty Ltd	Beresford Estate 2023 Emblem Old Vine Blewitt Springs Grenache	87	Bronze
95	Kay Brothers	Kay Brothers 2023 Griffon's Key Grenache	87	Bronze
42	Harrison	Harrison 2024 Fleur de Lune Grenache	87	Bronze
133	Kilikanoon Winery	Kilikanoon 2023 Prodigal Grenache	86	Bronze
135	Kilikanoon Winery	Kilikanoon 2022 Walton 1946 Grenache	86	Bronze
9	Thistledown Wine Company	Thistledown 2024 Thorny Devil Old Vine Grenache	86	Bronze
47	Pinnacle Drinks	Shingleback 2024 Single Vineyard McLaren Vale Grenache	86	Bronze
49	McLaren Vines Trust P/L	The Grocer's Gamble 2024 Grenache	86	Bronze
131	Pikes Vintners Pty Ltd	Pikes Wines 2024 The Plantation Grenache	86	Bronze
110	Vinarchy	Reynella 2018 Basket Pressed Grenache	86	Bronze
144	Mandoon Estate - WA	Mandoon Estate 2022 Old Vine Grenache	86	Bronze
141	Mandoon Estate - WA	Mandoon Estate 2024 Old Vine Grenache	86	Bronze
106	Nick Haselgrove Wines	Old Faithful 2023 Grenache	86	Bronze
79	MMAD Pty Ltd	MMAD Vineyard 2023 Grenache	86	Bronze
19	Dandelion Vineyards	Dandelion Vineyards 2024 Treasure Trove of McLaren Vale Grenache	86	Bronze
78	CW Wines	Ulithorne 2024 Singularis Grenache	86	Bronze
27	Gloucester Wines	Gloucester Wines 2024 Silver Grenache	86	Bronze
94	Rudderless Wines	Rudderless Wines 2023 Grenache	86	Bronze
11	Kay Brothers	Kay Brothers 2024 Griffon's Key Grenache	86	Bronze
2	Kangarilla Road Winery	Silent Noise Wines 2025 MF Grenache	86	Bronze
48	Chapel Hill Winery	Chapel Hill 2024 The MV Bush Vine McLaren Vale Grenache	85	Bronze
101	Oliver's Taranga Vineyards	Oliver's Taranga Vineyards 2023 RW Grenache	85	Bronze
13	Saltfleet Wines	Saltfleet 2024 Grenache	85	Bronze
137	Kilikanoon Winery	Kilikanoon 2022 Kx Grenache		
120	Pinnacle Drinks	Cat Amongst the Pigeons 2024 Fat Cat Barossa Grenache		
51	Chapel Hill Winery	Chapel Hill 2024 The Vinedresser McLaren Vale Grenache		
37	Willunga Hundred Pty Ltd	Willunga 100 2024 Smart Vineyard Clarendon Grenache		
145	Mandoon Estate - WA	Mandoon Estate 2019 Old Vine Grenache		
53	Jericho Wines Pty Ltd	Jericho Wines 2024 Selected Vineyard Grenache		
103	Culley Road Wines	Culley Road 2023 Grenache		
35	Aphelion Wine Co.	Aphelion 2024 Confluence Grenache		
126	Chaffey Bros. Wine Co	Chaffey Bros. 2024 Pax Aeterna Grenache		
68	Ministry of Clouds	Ministry of Clouds 2024 Silk & Stone Grenache		
69	Grant Nash Wines	Grant Nash 2024 Grenache		
72	Bondar Wines	Bondar Wines 2024 Rayner Vineyard Grenache		
108	Sisters Run Wine Company	Sisters Run Wine Company 2022 St Ann's McLaren Vale Grenache		

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90	Juxtaposed Wines	Juxtaposed Wines 2023 Smart Vineyard Grenache		
113	Treasury Wine Estates Vintners Limited	W Salter & Son 2024 Pepperjack Grenache		
96	Berg Herring	Berg Herring 2023 Grenache		
84	Grounded Cru	Grounded Cru 2023 Inc Grenache		
138	Kilikanoon Winery	Kilikanoon 2021 Duke Grenache		
28	Thistledown Wine Company	Our Fathers 2024 Old Vine Smart Vineyard Grenache		
99	Varney Wines	Varney Wines 2023 Limited Release Grenache		
143	Vino Volta	Vino Volta 2023 Pezzonovante Grenache		
107	Manser Family Wines	Manser Family Wines 2023 100 Year Old Vines Grenache		
41	Dandelion Vineyards	Dandelion Vineyards 2024 Faraway Tree of McLaren Vale Grenache		
22	Hither & Yon	Hither & Yon 2024 Grenache		
88	Richard Hamilton Wines	Richard Hamilton 2023 Burton's Vineyard Old Vine Grenache		
8	Gloucester Wines	Gloucester Wines 2024 Grenache		
116	Pinnacle Drinks	Krondorf 2024 Stone Altar Barossa Valley Old Vine Grenache		
149	Head Wines	Head Wines 2023 Ancestor Vine Grenache		
105	Vino Selvatico	Vino Selvatico 2023 Vol 1 Grenache		
62	McLaren Vale Premium Wines Pty Ltd	Thicker Than Water Wines 2024 RDW Grenache		
44	Grounded Cru	Grounded Cru 2024 Inc Grenache		
129	DMG Fine Wine	Handpicked Wines 2022 Collection Barossa Valley Grenache		
4	Sherrah Wines	Sherrah 2025 Nouveau Grenache		
111	DogRidge Wine Company	DogRidge 2014 All Rounder Grenache		
139	Hamelin Bay Wines - WA	Hamelin Bay Wines 2025 Special Release Grenache Rosé		
102	Jericho Wines Pty Ltd	Jericho Wines 2023 Bracken Vineyard Grenache		
140	Vino Volta	Vino Volta 2024 Pezzonovante Grenache		
93	Pannell Enoteca	S.C. Pannell 2023 Smart Grenache		
67	Aphelion Wine Co.	Aphelion 2024 Brini Single Site Grenache		
61	Vino Selvatico	Vino Selvatico 2024 Vol 2 Grenache		
64	Hugo Wines	Hugo Wines 2024 Grenache		
14	Larnook Wines	Larnook 2024 Blewitt Springs Grenache		
152	Collett Lane Pty Ltd	Woodstock Wine 2024 Townsend Grenache		WD
153	Kaesler Wines	Kaesler Wines 2023 The Fave Grenache		WD
136	Eldredge Vineyards	Eldredge Vineyards 2022 Skolly & Hye Grenache		WD
130	Eldredge Vineyards	Eldredge Wines 2024 Skolly & Hye Grenache		WD
117	DMG Fine Wine	Handpicked Wines 2024 Collection Barossa Valley Grenache		WD