



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Halliday, Hancock and Horgan – honored as wine industry ‘greats’**

The outstanding achievements of three ‘greats’ of the Australian wine industry have been honored at a special awards presentation held by the Winemakers’ Federation of Australia (WFA) in Adelaide last night.

James Halliday AM, Chris Hancock MW and Denis Horgan AM were named Life Members of the Australian Wine Industry.

Each of the recipients is a household name and their efforts in the nation’s vineyards, wineries, boardrooms and gracing the pages of the most discerning wine publications, have played a key role in creating a vibrant modern industry and brought Australian wines to the attention of consumers around the world.

“This coveted Life Member Award recognises outstanding leadership and contribution to the nation’s wine industry over and above an individual’s career achievements,” said WFA President Sandy Clark.

“Chris, Denis and James are worthy winners and take their place among other greats including Wolf Blass, d’Arry Osborn, Philip Laffer, John May, Terry Lee, Peter Barnes, Peter Wall and Bill Chambers. The Winemakers’ Federation of Australia is proud to administer this award”, he said.

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### **James Halliday AM**

James Halliday started his wine career while being a partner at Clayton Utz from 1966 to 1988. In 1970 he established Brokenwood winery in the Hunter Region with two legal colleagues, and in 1985 he founded the Coldstream Hills Winery in the Yarra Valley wine region. Coldstream Hills was acquired by Southcorp Wines in 1996 with James taking on the position of Group Winemaker, Regional Wineries with Southcorp. He has been a consultant for Coldstream Hills since 2000.

James' career as a wine judge started in 1977 and he has been accorded the role of Chairman of Judges at several state and national wine shows. He also has judged regularly at wine competitions in the United Kingdom, South Africa New Zealand, and less frequently in Europe and the United States.

James has been writing a weekly wine column for The Weekend Australian since 1984, and over the decades has written for many Australian and overseas magazines.

He is the recipient of many awards for his writing, and in 1995 he received the Maurice O'Shea Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Australian wine industry.

### **Chris Hancock MW**

Chris Hancock, Chairman of Robert Oatley Vineyards, is the only living Honorary Master of Wine. He has worked for the Oatley family for over 30 years, playing an integral role in shaping both their wine styles and worldwide success. Chris completed his Diploma of Oenology at Roseworthy Agricultural College in 1963. He went on to work for the Penfold family in a number of senior technical managerial roles, including producing several Granges at Magill.

As he opened up new international markets, Chris put Australian Chardonnay on the map, and in 1993 was made an honorary member of the Institute of Masters of Wine. He has been involved in Australian Wine industry affairs since 1978 with particular emphasis on regulatory and compliance matters. He also served for nine years as a Board member of the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation (now the Australian Grape and Wine Authority).

### **Denis Horgan AM**

In 1972, Denis and Tricia Horgan transformed their cattle farm and established Leeuwin Estate as Margaret River's fifth founding winery.

Enjoying its first commercial vintage in 1979, Leeuwin Estate was awarded Decanter Magazine's highest recommendation in an international blind tasting, and the accolades have continued. These include a place in the Hall of Fame in the category of International Winery of the Year by US Wine & Spirits Magazine.

Denis has chaired the Margaret River Wine Products Association and was a long serving member of the Board of the Winemakers' Federation of Australia and its Small Winemakers' Membership Committee.

In 2001 Denis was awarded the Centenary Medal. Denis and Tricia have also been awarded the Jack Mann medalist through the WA Wine Press Club, and continue to serve the Australian wine industry.

Both Denis and Tricia have been awarded Members of the Order of Australia for their contribution to the Australian Wine Industry, as well as life membership of the Margaret River Tourism Association and the Margaret River Wine Industry Association in recognition of their contribution to the activities of both those organisations.

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