



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, November 16, 2009

MARGARET RIVER WINEMAKER PICKS UP TROPHY FOR TOP DROP AT INTERNATIONAL WINE & SPIRIT COMPETITION

Janice McDonald, Winemaker of Stella Bella Wines, Margaret River has just returned from the *Hong Kong International Wine and Spirit Competition* with a cache of medals including a Trophy for her Stella Bella 2007 Chardonnay; being awarded Best Chardonnay and the Best New World Chardonnay.

Five of her other wines including the Stella Bella 2009 Pink Muscat , 2007 Shiraz, 2007 Tempranillo, 2007 Sangiovese Cabernet and 2008 Skuttlebutt Sauvignon Blanc Semillon were also awarded Bronze medals.

Janice McDonald who is a founding owner of Stella Bella Wines said “the 2007 Chardonnay has been a very successful wine in the Australian wine show system with three Gold medals to its credit. This international award and the strong performance across our wine portfolio, is further endorsement and recognition of our wine quality both nationally and internationally.

“Hong Kong and the broader Asian market is becoming an increasingly important destination for Western Australian wines, our proximity to Asia combined with the elimination of duties on wine exported to Hong Kong provides Stella Bella Wines with a great opportunity to showcase its wines to Asia” said Ms McDonald.

“As the importance of Hong Kong as a centre for wine grows, we believe that both Hong Kong and mainland China will become increasingly significant markets for our wines” said Ms McDonald”

In its inaugural year, the objective of the competition was to provide wine lovers in the region with an easy and informative way to explore and enjoy the wonderful world of wines and spirits and to help the trade showcase their products in the world's most dynamic market.

The *Hong Kong International Wine & Spirit Competition* engaged a top class panel of Asia’s most esteemed judges from China, Japan, Korea, Singapore and Taiwan assemble to acknowledge the world’s best wines.

Categories were judged by country, region, variety and style, as well as a world-first Chinese food and wine pairing category, and trophies awarded to reflect the unique sensibilities of the Asian palate. Around 1300 wines from around the world were judged in the competition from 31 October to 3 November.

For further information please contact Janice McDonald, Stella Bella Wines on +61 89757 6377 or +61427 701 678 EMAIL janice@stellabella.com.au



Janice McDonald Winemaker of Stella Bella Wines receives the Trophy for the Best Chardonnay from Simon Tam director of the Cathay Pacific Hong Kong IWSC.