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MEDIA RELEASE



SIRROMET RATES HIGHLY IN JAMES HALLIDAY'S 2011 AUSTRALIAN WINE COMPANION

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3: Sirromet Wines of Queensland was awarded a 4.5 star rating and a premium 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon from its Granite Belt vineyards scored 95 points in the 2011 James Halliday Australian Wine Companion.

The newly-released annual guide said of Sirromet: *"This was an unambiguously ambitious venture, which has succeeded in its aim of creating Qld's premier winery."*

"The founding Morris family retained a leading architect to design the striking state-of-the-art winery; the state's foremost viticultural consultant to plant three major vineyards (in the Granite Belt), which total almost 150 ha; and the most skilled winemaker practising in Qld, Adam Chapman, to make the wine."

Sirromet's headquarters at Mount Cotton, between Brisbane and the Gold Coast, include a 12-hectare vineyard, production, crushing, bottling, and packaging facilities, barrel rooms, Restaurant Lurleen's, cellar door and waste recycling plant. The winery, owned by Gold Coast businessman Terry Morris, also has three vineyards at Ballandean on the Granite Belt.

The 2011 Australian Wine Companion awarded 95 points to Sirromet's 2007 St Jude's Grand Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, from fruit hand-picked from the winery's 25-hectares St Jude's vineyard at Ballandean.

Sirromet Chief Winemaker Adam Chapman said the highest quality barrels were selected for oak aging.

Halliday's tasting notes said: *"A fragrant cedar/cigar box/spice/cassis bouquet, then a very rich palate flooded with sweet cassis, blackcurrent and dark chocolate; tannins soft, the oak integrated; some confection characters, but they work well."*

Chapman said Sirromet's winemaking team was elated with the score of 95.

"James Halliday has been to Sirromet to see what we are doing and his endorsement of the winery and our wines is a tremendous boost," said Chapman.

Sirromet's 2007 Night Sky Private Collection Shiraz Viognier scored 93 points. The fruit was sourced from three different blocks at the winery's 102-hectares Seven Scenes vineyard at Ballandean, including a block of double-pruned Shiraz.

Halliday's tasting notes said: *"An elegant, medium bodied wine with very good texture and structure; cedary oak and fine tannins accompany the gently spiced black fruit flavours; the finish is long and balanced."*

Other Sirromet wines tasted in the 2011 publication were a 2007 Signature Collection Seven Scenes Merlot (90 points) and a 2008 820 Above Verdelho (88 points).

AWARDS UPDATE: Sirromet won two medals at the 2010 Japan Wine Challenge - a silver for the 2007 Night Sky Private Collection Shiraz Viognier, and bronze for the 2008 Signature Collection Sparkling Red. Sirromet's 2007 Signature Collection Seven Scenes Merlot claimed a Seal of Approval. Results were announced on July 30. Judging was held in Tokyo from July 13-15. There were 1,500 wins from 23 countries entered. Sirromet has now won more than 430 medals and awards since opening in 2000.

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Pictured: Adam Chapman and James Halliday