

# Media release



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## **Handpicked Wines receives Best New Wineries accolade and five star rating from James Halliday's Wine Companion**

Handpicked Wines has been awarded as one of the 'Top 10 Best New Wineries' in James Halliday's Wine Companion 2015.

A first-time entry into Wine Companion, Handpicked Wines received a five star rating, Halliday's top ranking. All six Handpicked Wines featured in Wine Companion received ratings over 90 points.

Handpicked Signature Shiraz 2010 received a 96 point rating and the following assessment from Halliday: "Good colour; there is no question that grapes of very high quality were selected for this wine, and that the winemaking is of the same quality. It has exceptional finesse and elegance to its extremely long palate, notes of red and black fruits, spice, French oak and bramble all coming together in a seamless stream of flavour."

This accolade comes off the back of three medals at this year's International Cool Climate Wine Show. Handpicked's first single vineyard wine, which is yet to be submitted to Halliday, received the trophy for 'Best Mornington Peninsula Red Wine'.

Handpicked Wines has a portfolio of wines from established wine regions brought together by the message, "Travel the world, one wine at a time". With the appointment of Gary Baldwin as chief winemaker in 2013 the company signalled a serious intent to continue to pursue quality and carve a place in the affordable fine wine market.

Baldwin oversees quality of the range and after decades working as a consultant, helping other outfits grow and improve, is enjoying a hands-on role with ultimate responsibility for the wines in his care.

The acquisition of vineyards and a new state-of-the art winery at Capella Vineyard gives Baldwin and his team ultimate control over some of the label's flagship wines, many of which will be launched at events in Sydney and Melbourne in September and October.

In addition to Capella Vineyard on the Mornington Peninsula, Handpicked Wines has Highbow Hill Vineyard in the Yarra Valley and Watunga Road Vineyard in the Barossa Valley. The company maintains long-standing relationships with first-rate growers and winemakers in premium regions around the world, including Champagne, Italy, Spain, Marlborough, Central Otago, Margaret River, Clare Valley, Eden Valley, Coonawarra, Tasmania and Heathcote.

Handpicked Wines are available at select independent retailers, restaurants and bars in Sydney and Melbourne.

**For more information or to arrange an interview with Gary Baldwin, please contact Handpicked Wines marketing manager Imogen Hayes on 02 9475 7888 or 0431 056 936.**

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