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Granite Belt dominates Queensland's Top 20 Drops

While Queensland may have ten wine regions, the Granite Belt dominates for quality fruit, according to the state's most influential wine writer, Ken Gargett.

And to prove the point, Gargett's listing of Queensland's top twenty drops (*Courier Mail's Q Weekend* magazine 7 February 2008) includes seventeen wines produced from Granite Belt fruit.

Gargett reported that the deluge of wine submitted for this tasting is strong confirmation of the advances made by the local wine industry in recent years. He writes: "There are more than enough excellent Queensland wines made from a wide array of grapes and styles to satisfy any serious wine lover."

He says verdelho has proved ideally suited to the Granite Belt. Chardonnay has made strides and some surprisingly good pinot gris and viognier has appeared. There are good examples of both shiraz and cabernet and more than a few winemakers are excited about merlot and tempranillo looks promising. Ken Gargett's Queensland Top 20 includes:

- Sirromet Wines Sparkling PV 2006**
- Jimbour Wines Ludwig Leichhardt Reserve Pinot Noir Chardonnay 2005*
- Casley Mount Hutton Winery Chenin Blanc 2007*
- Robert Channon Wines Pinot Gris 2007*
- O'Reilly's Platypus Play Semillon
- Aussie Vineyards Au Granite Belt Verdelho 2006**
- Ravens Croft Granite Belt Verdelho 2007*
- Witches Falls Wild Ferment Chardonnay 2006**
- Moonrise Shiraz Rosé*
- Lucas Estate The Partners Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot 2006*
- Mason Wines Rees Road Shiraz 2005*
- Hidden Creek Rooklyn Shiraz 2006*
- Summit Estate Single Vineyard Petit Verdot 2005*
- Pyramids Road Limited Release Mourvedre 2005*
- Clovely Estate Left Field Barbera 2006
- Ridgemill The Spaniard Granite Belt Tempranillo*
- Rimfire Graciano 2006
- Golden Grove Granite Belt Vintage Port 2004*
- Ballandean Late Harvest Sylvaner 2005*
- Whiskey Gully Wines Nectar 2005*

*= Granite Belt vineyards & cellar door. ** = Granite Belt fruit.

"This confirms our position as the Queensland wine capital," commented Mrs Puglisi-Gangemi who heads the wine sub-committee at the Granite Belt Wine & Tourism (GBWT).

More...

Granite Belt dominates Queensland's Top 20 Drops/2...

“In the past twelve months the association has invested significantly in a new branding exercise which reinforces the Granite Belt as Queensland's premier wine region. That's obviously having impact internally as well, as evidenced by the fact that a number of wineries are including the words Granite Belt in the name of their wines, as well as using our tertiary trust mark logo.”

To learn more about Queensland's premier wine region you can request a free wine fact sheet by email from marketing@granitebeltwinecountry.com.au or visit www.granitebeltwinecountry.com.au

To learn more about the Queensland wine capital phone 1800 SO COOL. *Expect to be surprised!*

ENDS

NOTES:

1. The history of the Queensland wine industry dates back to the 1860s - and like all good wines it has developed with age.
2. Of Queensland's current 1100 hectares planted to wine grapes, approximately half of these are on the Granite Belt. It is also the largest of the ten wine regions in the state and one of only two with official GI status.
3. 64% of Granite Belt plantings are of Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Merlot with an increasing number of plantings of alternative grape varieties proving popular.
4. The Granite Belt is home to approximately 50 wine cellar doors, the state's most awarded winemakers, plus the Queensland College of Wine Tourism - the first of its type in the world.

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