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Contact: Michele Cozzi 07 4681 0411 or 0417 620571 marketing@granitebeltwinecountry.com.au

Granite Belt Dominates Queensland Wine Scene

While Queensland produces less than two per cent of Australia's wine, the results of this year's Australian Small Winemakers Show confirms it punches above its weight. The Granite Belt, in particular, being the star of the show.

Results of the 21st show were this week announced in Stanthorpe on Queensland's Granite Belt.

The Sunshine state claimed 13% of this year's 746 medals. Of the 98 medals awarded to Queensland wines, sixty two per cent went to wines of the Granite Belt. These included all the Queensland gold medals (eight in total), 24 silver and 66 bronze medals.

Show president Mr Warren Smith said, "They were a great result for Queensland and even better for the Granite Belt. This highlights the strength of the Granite belt as Queensland's premier wine producing region."

Mr Smith added that in recent years Queensland results have climbed steadily from representing nine per cent of all medals in 2005, to thirteen per cent this year, showing the continuing development of the Queensland wine industry.

Granite Belt Wine & Tourism president Mr Philip Moye acknowledged the role the Australian Small Winemakers Show plays in promoting the Granite Belt. He said aside from the fact that judges come from around the country, every one of 1700 entries mailed to Stanthorpe, QLD 4380, promotes us.

"Continuing to host the biggest show for small winemakers in Australia is another sign that the Granite Belt is Australia's northern wine capital," Mr Moye added.

Leading the pack of successful Granite Belt producers was Golden Grove Estate which won four trophies, including the Most Successful Queensland Exhibitor. Full results of the 2008 Australian Small Winemakers Show are downloadable at <http://www.asws.com.au/content/standard.asp?name=Results>

Chairman of Judges: Chris Pfeiffer - Pfeiffer Wines. **Judges** Stephen John - Stephen John Wines, David Morris - Morris of Rutherglen, Andrew Koerner - Blue Pyrenees, John MacDonald - Palatable Partners, Luke Fitzpatrick - Clovely Estate, Rodney Hooper - Macaw Creek Estate, Helen McCarthy - Taylors of Clare Valley, David Joeky - Casella Wines and Michael Hatcher - Hungerford Hill.

To learn more about this Queensland wine and food region visit www.granitebeltwinecountry.com.au or phone 1800 SO COOL or (07) 4681 2057.

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The history of the Queensland wine industry dates back to the 1860s - and like all good wines it has developed with age. Of Queensland's current 1100 hectares planted to wine grapes, approximately half of these are on the Granite Belt. The Granite Belt is Queensland's premier wine region and one of ten wine regions in the state, of which only two have official GI status. 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. **[To get all the facts about the Granite Belt wine industry click here.](#)**