

Denmark wines rank with nation's best

By SERENA KIRBY

SEVERAL Denmark wineries are standouts in the 2012 James Halliday Australian Wine Companion.

It lists every winery in Australia and ranks the best wines using the renowned Halliday Points.

A 2009 Chardonnay from The Lake House Denmark scores an impressive 97 points, making it the highest scoring wine in the Denmark region.

Another standout wine was the winery's 1996 Shiraz with 96 points.

The Lake House Denmark has also achieved a 5-star winery rating in this year's Wine Companion, which Garry Capelli says is an impressive achievement for a small boutique winery.

"The Great Southern wine region has far more diversity and complexity than Margaret River," he said.

"Many people would be surprised to learn that a lot of Margaret River wineries get their grapes from our local Frankland region."

Willoughby Park was named as one of the best new wineries in Australia.

With about 100 wineries opening their doors in Australia each year and the list naming only the top 10, Willoughby Park's inclusion came as a surprise to the hardworking winemaking team.

"The praise and accolade from James Halliday shows we are on the right track," says senior winemaker Andries Mostert.

"The quality of our wine is a reflection of our quality viticulture."

Willoughby Park also received a five-star rating, which is unusual for a new winery.

Other wineries receiving high acclaim in the Denmark region are Moombaki with five black



Garry Capelli and Leanne Rogers taste a drop of their high-scoring Chardonnay.

stars awarded for achievement over the year and Harewood with five red stars, a higher accolade for ongoing achievement.

Top wineries in the Great Southern with five-star ratings are Castelli, Trevelen Farm and Willoughby Park.

Forest Hill and Marchand and Burch have received the 'extra special' five red-star rating, given only to wineries after they have achieved five stars and held it for several years.

In the wine industry, regardless of whether the five stars are black or red, winery owners consider them 'money in the bank' as they attract premium buyers and restaurants looking to fill their glasses with the best.