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Judges see red

Cowra might be dubbed Chardonnay country, but someone forgot to tell that to the judges at last week's 2009 Cowra Wine Show.

Two of the four gold medals won by Cowra Region vineyards were for reds and the darker varieties were responsible for half of the medal haul by local vineyards.

The Cowra region was a dramatic mover at this year's Show, notching up 15 medals by the end, including an impressive four gold, three silver, eight bronze and several top of the class.

In fact, the strength of the local results this year resulted in the Tony Gray award – an award specifically for the best local wine of the show – split in two to recognise the best white and the best red.

Not just happy about her vineyard's own results, Mulyan's Jenni Fagan described the overall medal haul as a great achievement for all in the Cowra wine region to celebrate.

She believed the mixture of winning varieties this year showed the increasing depth of the region, as the red varieties in the region begin to mature.

"It shows the variety of the area, the diversity and that Cowra is producing great wines," Mrs Fagan said.

"Chardonnay is still obviously up there but the red wines are really coming into their own. They are developing as they age and they are producing some very nice wines."

The results came at a perfect time, she said, as the region plans to step up its marketing and promotion campaigns.

At a regional partnership level, dinners partnering Cowra wines are being planned for Sydney and Canberra and at home, individual vineyards reported strong visitation to events held in conjunction with Wine Show week.

Now that their wines have won the judges approval, it's a case of convincing the consumers.

"We just can't wait for them to come to us, we have to go to them."

Cowra Wine Region medal winners at the 2009 Show

Gold

- Mulyan 2007 Viognier, Manildra Group Trophy for Best Viognier of the Show
- Gardners Ground 2008 Shiraz
- Mulyan 2007 Shiraz Viognier
- Kalari 2008 Chardonnay

Silver

- Mulyan 2007 Bushrangers Bounty
- Mulyan 2006 Block 9 Shiraz Viognier
- Windowrie Pig in The House 2008 Shiraz

Bronze

- Mulyan 2008 Chardonnay
- Windowrie Estate 2008 The Mill Verdelho
- Mulyan 2006 Viognier
- Mulyan 2007 Shiraz
- Spring Ridge 2007 Semillon
- Swinging Bridge Estate 2008 Shiraz
- Windowrie 2007 Family Reserve Shiraz
- Mulyan 2006 Shiraz