

Pannell Nebbiolo a winner



Class act: Stephen Pannell.

Sandra Godwin

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A NEBBIOLO from the Adelaide Hills stole the show at the Australian Alternative Varieties Wine Show in Mildura last week.

The 2007 S.C Pannell Nebbiolo also won trophies for best Italian varietal and best red wine at the ninth annual wine show, which began as the Sangiovese Awards in 1999 and was renamed in 2001.

Stephen and Fiona Pannell started their [S.C Pannell](#) label in 2004 with no vineyards and no winery, but it hasn't taken them long to make their mark.

The pair produces award-winning shiraz, grenache and shiraz-grenache blends from the McLaren Vale, but also makes sauvignon blanc and nebbiolo from the Adelaide Hills.

Nebbiolo is best known as the grape used to produce two of the world's most revered wines - Barolo and Barbaresco, from the northwest Italian region of Piedmont.

Mr Pannell, a former chief red wine maker for BRL Hardy and Red Winemaker of the Year at the [International Wine Challenge](#) in London, said the win was a pleasant surprise.

"It's nice for a wine that's not typically Australian to be recognised," he said.

"I always thought this wine would be very difficult to sell in Australia, but people are enjoying the more savoury style of wine - wines that aren't so fat."

The presentation of the trophy for best wine of the show was an emotional occasion, with the trophy now dedicated to one of its three co-founders, Dr Rod Bonfiglioli, who died in May.

Other trophy winners announced at the AAVWS Awards Long Lunch were [Brown Brothers](#) for its 2008 Pinot Grigio (best commercial volume) and 2008 Graciano (best Spanish varietal), and [Robinvale Wines'](#) 2008 Kerner (best organic).

The chairman's "wines to watch" were [d'Arenberg's](#) The Cenossilicaphobic Cat 2007 and Beach Road Wines' Greco di Tufo 2009.