



Media Alert

July 1, 2013

Red vs. white – what will take out Australia’s top drop?

Almost 1,900 wines will be swirled, sniffed and sipped at this week’s prestigious Royal Queensland Wine Show (RQWS), *supported by Cooper Grace Ward Lawyers*, in the battle for one of the 26 trophies up for grabs.

As one of the oldest wine competitions and the first national show held in a capital city each year, the RQWS provides the platform for the nation’s best wine producers to reveal their new season’s vintage.

Attracting more entries and almost 90 new exhibitors than the 2012 competition, this year’s show also introduced new classes for single vineyards wines which fetched almost 130 entries across red and white.

In May this year the RNA introduced a new judging panel and processes in line with new national guidelines set by Australia’s preeminent wine shows to bring uniformity to judging across the country. PJ Charteris will head the team as Chief Judge and work alongside 18 other industry professionals.

To celebrate Australia’s many great wine regions, entries in this year’s competition will be sorted by geographical indicators, which allow for a more comprehensive comparison between ‘like’ wines while providing context for judges.

As a hugely popular and prestigious competition, the RQWS is the ultimate test for winemakers to compete against industry peers and be judged by some of Australia’s most respected and experienced professionals. With so much choice now available, a grand champion trophy from the RQWS is a reliable source of quality for consumers and a valuable way for wineries to set themselves apart from their competitors.

RQWS judging runs from July 1 to 5 at the RNA Showgrounds, with winners announced at a gala awards dinner on July 5.

WHAT: Royal Queensland Wine Show, *supported by Cooper Grace Ward Lawyers*
WHEN: Monday 1 July – Friday 5 July
TIME: 8:30am to 3pm
WHERE: Upper Commerce Building, RNA Showgrounds, Bowen Hills
PARKING: Under Exhibition Building

Note: Winners will be announced at the Royal Queensland Wine Show Gala Awards Dinner, *supported by Cooper Grace Ward Lawyers*, on Friday 5 July.

Media Enquiries:

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Judging panel:

- Mr PJ Charteris – Chief Judge (Winemaker, Charteris Wines)
- Mr David Bicknell – Judge
- Mr David Brookes – Judge
- Mr Jim Chatto – Judge (Chief Winemaker, McWilliam's Wines Group)
- Ms Samantha Connew – Judge (Australian Wine Research Institute)
- Ms Sarah Crowe – Judge (Senior Winemaker, Bimbadgen)
- Mr James Godfrey – Judge (Group Fortified Winemaker, Treasury Wine Estates)
- Mr Tony Harper – Judge
- Mr Ian Hongell – Judge
- Mr Christopher Pfeiffer – Judge
- Mr Nick Ryan – Judge
- Ms Jane Skilton – Judge
- Ms Trina Smith – Judge (Senior Sparkling Winemaker, Treasury Wine Estates)
- Mr Adam Wadewitz – Judge (Senior Winemaker, Shaw + Smith)
- Mr Luke Fitzpatrick – Associate to Judge
- Mr Tom Hogan – Associate to Judge (Owner, Harry & Frankie wine bar)
- A/Prof Robert Learmonth – Associate to Judge
- Ms Gwyneth Olsen – Associate to Judge
- Mr Andy Williams – Associate to Judge (Consultant Winemaker in the Granite Belt Wine Region)

Associated RNA wine events:

- Royal Queensland Wine Show Gala Awards Dinner *supported by Cooper Grace Ward Lawyers*: Friday 5 July – 6:30pm for 7pm.
- Exhibitor Tasting: Saturday 6 July – 8:30am to 11:30am.
- Royal Queensland Wine Showcase *supported by Cooper Grace Ward Lawyers*: Saturday 6 July – 6pm to 8pm.

News editors please note:

- Media are welcome to attend judging to film, take vision and interview judges.
- Media are welcome to attend the black tie Royal Queensland Wine Show Gala Awards Dinner *supported by Cooper Grace Ward Lawyers* on Friday 5 July from 6:30pm in the Royal International Convention Centre, RNA Showgrounds
- Media are welcome to attend the Royal Queensland Wine Showcase *supported by Cooper Grace Ward Lawyers* on Saturday 6 July from 6pm – 8pm.
- A media release revealing winners will be sent to media outlets following the awards presentation on Monday 8 July unless requested earlier.

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