



# Fact Sheet

## IMPORTANT EXHIBITOR INFORMATION

### 2014 Royal Queensland Wine Show Judges

This year Chief Judge PJ Charteris has unveiled a new panel of expert judges who he has carefully selected to reinvigorate the 2014 RQWS.

The competition will continue to be fine-tuned under PJ's direction to ensure it holds its place as one of the most prestigious wine shows in the country.

The popular competition is the ultimate test for winemakers who compete against industry peers and are judged by some of Australia's most respected and experienced professionals.

#### Meet the judges

##### Chief Judge

- **PJ Charteris** – PJ has an outstanding reputation not only as one of New Zealand and Australia's leading winemakers but for his support of the local and international wine industry. After realising his love for winemaking at the age of 13, PJ has always been heavily involved in the industry through studying, winemaking and judging. PJ has worked in New Zealand, Australia, Europe and the Americas in search of the perfect drop – his passions are making Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. In 2010 the Hunter Valley Wine Industry Association honoured PJ by awarding him Winemaker of the Year. PJ joined the Royal Queensland Wine Show as Chief Judge in 2013. The show has gone from strength to strength under PJ's direction. PJ splits his time between New Zealand's Central Otago and the Hunter Valley and runs his own successful label, Charteris Wines.

##### Panel Chairs introduced

- **Samantha Connew** – Winemaker Samantha Connew joined the Australian Wine Research Institute in September 2012 as Manager of the newly formed Hunter Valley Node. Prior to this she was the Winemaker/Manager of boutique Hunter Valley winery, Tower Estate, after working in McLaren Vale for ten years as the Senior Winemaker at Wirra Wirra Vineyards. Amongst her many achievements, in 2007 she was awarded 'International Red Winemaker of the Year' at the prestigious International Wine Challenge in London, and in 2008 she was a South Australian finalist in the Telstra Business Women's Awards. She has also served on the boards of regional associations and is currently a board member of the Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology. She is highly respected wine show judge and has been a Panel Chair at many regional and capital city wine shows, having completed both the Advanced Wine Assessment Course and the Len Evans Tutorial.
- **Dave Bicknell** – Dave has worked as a winemaker both locally and internationally, including three French and 21 Yarra Valley vintages. Dave has been the Chief



Winemaker at Oakridge Wines since 2012 and has been pouring his heart and soul into producing award-winning wines. Dave's approach to winemaking incorporates everything from the soil type from which the vines grow to the type of music that is played during vinification.

- **Matt Harrop** – An experienced winemaker, Matt started working in wineries at age 17, attending Roseworthy Agricultural College in South Australia. In his winery travels he has spent time working at vineyards in Italy and Moldova, as well as the Hunter Valley and New Zealand. Matt has been at the Shadowfax Winery and Vineyard since its first vintage in 1999. Shadowfax produces 13,000 cases of wine annually.
- **Stephen Pannell** - Stephen Pannell has been named as one of the 50 most influential contributors to the world of wine by Decanter Magazine. His extensive knowledge and experience has been garnered over many years working with not only some of Australia's iconic wineries, but on numerous overseas vintages in Burgundy, Bordeaux and Barolo. Stephen has won a number of awards including the prestigious title of International Red Winemaker of the Year at the International Wine Challenge in London.
- **Jim Chatto** - A Hunter Valley winemaker with some 20 years' experience, Jim has worked extensively in many regions across NSW, TAS & SA; as well as France & Hungary. After Six years as Chief Winemaker at Pepper Tree Wines, Jim was appointed Chief Winemaker for the McWilliam's Wines Group. Jim is also a senior wine show judge, with over 15 years experience across both regional and capital city shows. Jim was a Len Evans Tutorial Scholar (2002) Hunter Valley Winemaker of the Year (2009) and Gourmet Traveller Winemaker of the Year finalist (2010). In his spare time, Jim runs his own tiny Pinot Noir vineyard in far south Tasmania, making wine under his eponymous label; Chatto Wines.

### General Judging Information

- The 100-point scoring system has been a success since its inclusion in the RQWS in 2012
- Universally recognised, the 100-point scoring system originated in the United States and is used by many prominent commentators including the world's leading wine critic Robert Parker of The Wine Advocate and the influential Wine Spectator
- The system has grown in popularity in Australia and has become widely recognised by wine critics and domestic consumers
- Medals at the 2014 RQWS will be awarded as follows:
  - Gold medals for 96 to 100 points
  - Silver medals for 90 to 95 points
  - Bronze medals for 84 to 89 points
- As one of Australia's oldest and the first national wine show held in a capital city, the RQWS allows the nation's best wine producers to reveal their new season's vintage

**ENTRIES CLOSE 9 MAY 2014**

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