



# Media Release

July 8, 2014

## South Australian Chardonnay crowned Australia's best drop

Wolf Blass has beaten more than 2000 Australian wines to take out the top gong at the 2014 Royal Queensland Wine Show (RQWS), with winners announced tonight at an awards ceremony at the Royal International Convention Centre in Brisbane.

The 2012 Wolf Blass Picadilly Reserve Chardonnay, produced by Wolf Blass Wines in South Australia, has been named Grand Champion Wine of Show taking out The Courier Mail Trophy.

Chief Judge and award-winning winemaker PJ Charteris, with his team of expert judges, tasted more than 2076 wines from 270 Australian wineries before they crowned Australia's best.

Crowned Hunter Valley Winemaker of the Year in 2010, Mr Charteris has worked in New Zealand, Australia, Europe and the Americas in search of the perfect drop – his passions are making Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

Mr Charteris is excited about the future of Australian Chardonnay and described the Grand Champion Wine of Show, the 2012 Wolf Blass Picadilly Reserve Chardonnay, as having a particularly fine balance between fruit complexity and finesse.

"When you get wine of this magnitude you're looking for the perfect balance and precision, this winning Chardonnay had those key elements," he said.

"Australian Chardonnay is on a very good trajectory, producers are concentrating on bringing harmony between winemaking and the characters of the fruit."

The historical Stodart Trophy, which crowns the best young red of show, went to Nick O'Leary Wines for their 2013 Nick O'Leary Shiraz.

"This was a finer, elegant Shiraz which was fruit focused," Mr Charteris said.

"Nick O'Leary is a talented young winemaker and certainly one to watch."

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Queensland vineyard, Symphony Hill Wines, took out two awards. This confirms their place as one of Australia's top wine producers.

Mr Charteris was very impressed with the overall quality and strength of wines entered in this year's competition which saw a near 20% rise in entry numbers since 2013.

"The quality remains outstanding and the commitment of winemakers to improve every year is not waning," he said.

The RQWS received entries from wine regions across Australia including the iconic Barossa Valley, Victoria's Milawa region, the Hunter Valley, Queensland's Granite Belt and Western Australia's Margaret River to name a few.

## AWARD WINNERS:

### THE MALDWYN AND IAN DAVIES AWARD

Best Sparkling of Show

**Brown Brothers Milawa Vineyard, NV Pirie Sparkling**

### THE BRISBANE CLUB AWARD

For the Best Riesling of Show

**De Bortoli Wines, 2011 Yarra Valley Reserve Release Riesling**

### THE TMPOS AWARD

For the Best Sauvignon Blanc of Show

**Australian Vintage, 2013 Nepenthe Petraea Sauvignon Blanc**

### THE LUIGI BORMIOLI AWARD

For the Best Semillon of Show

**McWilliam's Wines, 2009 Mt Pleasant Lovedale Semillon**

### THE CSG PRINT SERVICES AWARD

For the Best Semillon & Sauvignon Blanc Blend of show

**Jamieson's Run, 2013 Jamieson's Run Limestone Coast Sauvignon Blanc Semillon**

### THE A.O FLEMING AWARD

For the Best Chardonnay of Show

**Wolf Blass Wines, 2012 Wolf Blass Picadilly Reserve Chardonnay**

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#### THE HARRY BROWN AWARD

For the Pinot Gris of Show

Lindeman's Wines, 2014 Lindeman's Bin 85 Pinot Grigio

#### THE STUART HORNERY AWARD

For the Best Other Single White Varietal of Show

Symphony Hill Wines, 2013 Symphony Hill Wines Gewurztraminer

Best Sweet White of Show

d'Arenberg, 2011 d'Arenberg The Noble Wrinkled

Best Young White of Show

Leo Buring, 2014 Leonay Riesling

Best Mature White of Show

McWilliam's Wines, 2009 Mt Pleasant Lovedale Semillon

Best Single Vineyard White of Show

McWilliam's Wines, 2009 Mt Pleasant Lovedale Semillon

RNA Best White of Show

Wolf Blass Wines, 2012 Wolf Blass Picadilly Reserve Chardonnay

2014 Queensland Wine Winemaker Bursary

Warren Smith of Pyramid Road Wines

#### THE UBS WEALTH MANAGEMENT TROPHY

Best Rose of Show

Shingleback, 2014 Shingleback Haycutters Salmon Rose

#### THE ACCOR TROPHY

Best Pinot Noir of Show

Yabby Lake, 2013 Yabby Lake Block 2 Pinot Noir

#### THE MILNER LAWYERS TROPHY

Best Grenache & Rhone style Red of Show

Rosemount Estates, 2013 Rosemount McLaren Vale GSM

#### THE REWARD DISTRIBUTION GROUP TROPHY

Best Merlot of Show

Smith and Hooper Wines, 2012 Smith and Hooper Reserve Merlot

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**THE ALAN COOK MBE TROPHY**

Best Bordeaux Blend of Show

**Blue Pyrenees Estate, 2012 Blue Pyrenees Estate Red**

**THE WINE GUILD OF AUSTRALIA INC (QLD) TROPHY**

Best Shiraz/Cabernet Blend of Show

**Jim Barry Wines, 2013 The Barry Brothers**

**THE JOHN CHANDLER MEMORIAL TROPHY**

Best Other Single Varietal Red of Show

**Serafino Wines, 2013 Serafino Bellissimo Tempranillo**

**THE FLINDERS GROUP TROPHY**

Best Cabernet Sauvignon of Show

**Palmer Wines, 2010 Palmer Wines Cabernet Sauvignon**

**THE BRISBANE CLUB TROPHY**

Best Shiraz of Show

**Nick O'Leary Wines, 2013 Nick O'Leary Shiraz**

Best Other Red Blend of Show

**Rosemount Estates, 2012 Rosemount Nursery Project GMG**

Best Mature Red of Show

**Palmer Wines, 2010 Palmer Wines Cabernet Sauvignon**

Best Single Vineyard Red of Show

**Seville Estate, 2012 Seville Estate Old Vine Reserve Shiraz**

RNA Best Red of Show

**Nick O'Leary Wines, 2013 Nick O'Leary Shiraz**

Best Fortified Muscat or White of Show

**Morris Wines, Morris Old Premium Rare Liqueur Topaque**

Best Fortified Red of Show

**Penfolds Wines, Penfolds Grandfather Rare Tawny**

Best Brandy of Show

**St Agnes Distillery, St Agnes XO**

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### THE COOPER GRACE WARD LAWYERS TROPHY

For the Best QLD Wine of Show

Symphony Hill Wines, 2013 Symphony Hill Wines Gewurztraminer

### THE JOHN G MARCHANT MEMORIAL TROPHY

For the Most Successful Queensland Exhibitor of Show

Symphony Hill Wines

### THE DAN O'CONNOR TROPHY

For the Most Successful Exhibitor of Show

Wolf Blass Wines

### THE STODART TROPHY

For the Best Young Red of Show

Nick O'Leary Wines, 2013 Nick O'Leary Shiraz

### THE COURIER MAIL TROPHY

The Grand Champion Wine of Show Trophy

Wolf Blass Wines, 2012 Wolf Blass Picadilly Reserve Chardonnay

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