



Media Release

29 May 2013

Royal Queensland Wine Show introduces new judges for 2013 awards.

*****Entries close Friday 31 May. Enter online at www.rqfws.com.au**

One of Australia's largest and most prestigious wine shows will introduce a new judging panel and processes for this year's competition.

Key highlights:

- New judging panel headed by Chief Judge PJ Charteris
- Introduction of geographical indicators to provide context for judges
- Introduction of regional rosettes for best wine from a region
- New classes for single vineyard wines
- 100-point scoring system continues
- **Enter online at www.rqfws.com.au. Entries close Friday 31 May.**

The changes are in line with new national guidelines set by Australia's preeminent wine shows to bring uniformity to judging across the country. At a meeting of Capital City Wine Shows in Melbourne in October 2012, representatives agreed to implement the following changes to their respective wine shows:

- Judge rotation, at all levels, every three to five years
- Establishing succession planning measures to introduce new judges and young industry representatives
- Forming a Wine Advisory Panel for Queensland
- Appointment of two associate judges per panel during the competition

The Royal Queensland Wine Show (RQWS) welcomes PJ Charteris as its new Chief Judge who said these changes were designed to reinvigorate judging processes, support the continued success of the wine shows and represent good business practice.

"The RNA is committed to keeping the RQWS at the forefront and will be implementing these changes, and others, in 2013 and beyond," he said.

"As winemakers, our mission is simple: to produce wines that will showcase the depth and purity of our wine growing region.

"For this year's competition wines will also be sorted by geographical indicators, which not only allows for more comprehensive comparison between 'like' wines but also provides context for judges.

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“To celebrate Australia’s many great wine regions, the 2013 Royal Queensland Wine Show has introduced regional rosettes to be awarded to the best wine from a particular region and new classes for single vineyards wines,” said Mr Charteris.

The RQWS will also no longer accept unfinished wines or barrel samples in any class as it has done previously.

Mr Charteris said last year the RQWS became the first major wine show in the country to release results for its entire competition using the internationally recognised 100-point scoring system.

“Traditionally the RQWS used the 20-point scoring system for results but implemented the new 100-point scoring for the 2012 competition,” he said.

“Universally recognised, the 100-point scoring system is used by many prominent commentators and is commonly used throughout the United Kingdom, Ireland, China, Hong Kong, Canada and the United States.

“Wines at the 2013 RQWS will continue to be judged on condition, colour, bouquet and flavour, however the conversion to the 100-point system ensures awards can be featured and understood in the global market.”

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.

The RQWS runs from July 1 to 5, with winners announced at a gala dinner on July 5.

2013 RQWS JUDGING PANEL:

- Chief Judge – PJ Charteris

Born in New Zealand in 1968, PJ was an early convert to the magic of vines, starting to prune vines at Vilagrad Winery in the Waikato at the age of 13. After working at Vilagrad for five years, PJ took over the day-to-day winery operations in 1986 and then in 1988, he left New Zealand to study winemaking at Roseworthy in South Australia.

With a thirst for learning more about winemaking, PJ spent the 1990 vintage with Lindemans, firstly in the Hunter Valley and then at their Rouge Homme facility in Coonawarra. The following 1991 vintage was spent with Riesling expert Tim Knapstein in South Australia’s Clare Valley. For the next few years, PJ spent time working at Lindemans in the Hunter Valley, Vilagrad in New Zealand and the Adelsheim Vineyard in Oregon, one of the forerunners of top end Pinot Noir in the USA.

During his career, PJ also spent time working with rising Californian Pinot Star, Flowers

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Vineyard and Winery, Paul Jaboulet in the Rhone Valley and travelled Europe extensively studying the great wines and winemaking techniques of France, Spain and Italy.

In 1993, with enough international travel under his belt, PJ joined the winemaking team at Lindemans in Mildura and then Penfolds in the Barossa before returning to the Hunter Valley in 1999 to take up the position of winemaker for Brokenwood.

In his 12 years at Brokenwood, PJ earned an outstanding reputation not only as one of Australia's leading winemakers but for his support of the local and national wine industry, being a regular show judge at national and regional wine shows around Australia. In 2009, he was appointed Chairman of Judges of the Barossa Wine Show, whilst at the same time, working closely with Wine Australia spreading his knowledge of regionality and the Australian wine industry to open up new market possibilities overseas. In 2010 the Hunter Valley Wine Industry Association honoured PJ by awarding him Winemaker of the Year.

- Panel Chair – David Bicknell
- Panel Chair – Jim Chatto
- Panel Chair – Samantha Connew
- Panel Chair – Adam Wadewitz

KEY DATES:

- Entries close: Friday 31 May 2013. Go to www.rqfws.com.au for entry details
- Judging: Monday 1 – Friday 5 July 2013, Brisbane Showgrounds
- Wine Awards Dinner: Friday 5 July 2013, Royal International Convention Centre. \$170pp. or \$1,600 per table of 10
- Exhibitor Tasting: Saturday 6 July, Upper Commerce Building, Brisbane Showgrounds. 8:30am – 11:30am
- Wine Showcase: Saturday 6 July, Upper Commerce Building, Brisbane Showgrounds. 6pm – 8pm. \$40pp.

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