



December 11, 2017

New fellowship to help find nation's finest wines

Australian winemakers now have the chance to claim a coveted fellowship along with the Grand Champion title, when they enter the prestigious Royal Queensland Wine Show (RQWS).

Entries open today for the first capital city wine show of the season, which will see Chief Judge David Bicknell - recently named Gourmet Traveller Wine's Winemaker of the Year 2017 - lead a team of expert judges for the third year.

New in 2018 will be the addition of a \$12,000 fellowship provided by the RNA, to be awarded to the winemaker of the Grand Champion Wine of Show.

Mr Bicknell said the new fellowship gave winemakers an opportunity to further their own knowledge and advance the Australian wine industry.

"The fellowship funds can be used for travel, training and education. It's a great incentive to continue to bring new ideas and techniques back into the industry, further improve wine quality and develop winemaking skills," he said.

"With the historic Stodart Trophy for the best young red of show and Single Vineyard prize, the RQWS now boasts three of the most coveted awards on the Australian wine judging landscape."

More than 1,600 wines from 217 Australian wineries were entered into this year's competition, which saw Xanadu Wines' Reserve Chardonnay 2015 named Grand Champion Wine of Show.

Mr Bicknell said he was looking forward to seeing the quality of competition next year, with the RQWS judges the first to critically review the 2018 vintage in Australia and let consumers know which bottles to enjoy.

"The standard over the past few years has been exceptional but I think we'll see an even higher quality of wines next year, especially with the new fellowship as an added incentive to enter."

Winemakers who enter the competition will also have the chance to showcase their top drops to more than 800 consumers at the fourth 'Grape Grazing by Night – Celebrating Australian Wine' event next July.

There is also an opportunity for medal-winning wines to be served at Queensland's largest event – the Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) – and for winemakers to become suppliers to the Royal International Convention Centre.

Entries for the RQWS must be in by Friday 20 April 2018, with judging taking place from Monday 2 July and the winners announced the same day as Grape Grazing by Night on Friday 13 July.



Media Release



The RQWS, which dates back to 1876, gives Australian wineries exposure by helping to promote the nation's diverse growing regions, the winemakers and their exceptional drops.

ENTRIES CLOSE - Friday 20 April 2018. Enter at www.rqfws.com.au

JUDGING – from Monday 2 July 2018

AWARDS AND GRAPE GRAZING BY NIGHT - Friday 13 July 2018

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