



ROYAL  
QUEENSLAND  
AWARDS  
SHOWCASING AUSTRALIA'S BEST



MEDIA RELEASE

1 March 2024

## Wine experts set to find Australia's most captivating drop

A truly captivating drop is what Australia's most esteemed wine experts are seeking when selecting the gold medallists for the RNA's Royal Queensland Wine Awards (RQWA).

Entries open today for the first capital city wine show of the year, with a panel of 26 judges gearing up to critique reds, whites, and blends.

Chief Judge Tom Carson said for 147 years winemakers have turned to RQWA to have their wines appraised by its panel of judges, comprising of Australia's most esteemed industry experts.

"The judging panel we have assembled is a really exciting group of people that represents all facets of the viticulture and wine industry including winemakers, sommeliers, restaurateurs, retailers and educators," Mr Carson said.

"Our process of tasting the wine and discussing our take on each drop – it is just so exciting to be doing this with the best in the industry.

"Come July, the judging panel will be seeking the complete package – the winning wine needs to captivate us and stand at the forefront of winemaking and viticulture."

The wine awards are part of the RNA's prestigious Royal Queensland Awards which showcase and reward the nation's best Beef, Lamb, Wine, Beer, Dairy, Cheese, Ice Cream and now Aquaculture and Distilled Spirits.

Mr Carson said the wine awards offer commercial opportunities for proven and emerging wineries, championing the nation's best wines to buyers in the Queensland market.

"In 2024 we have instigated more changes to the schedule to ensure we remain at the forefront of the ever-evolving wine industry," he said.

"Not all medal winners will be on the more expensive end of the wish list either, with this year's addition of the New Best Value Wine Trophy, for bottles of red or white that retail for less than \$25.

"We have also continued to lower the stock-on-hand requirements for more competition classes down to 100 dozen bottles, enabling small batch producers and boutique wineries to compete in this prestigious event."



**ROYAL  
QUEENSLAND  
AWARDS**  
SHOWCASING AUSTRALIA'S BEST



# MEDIA RELEASE

This year marks Mr Carson's final as Chair of the RQWA, with the wine expert not afraid to push the boundaries in order to stage a world-class wine event.

"It's been great to judge the RQWA and continue to push it forward with new ideas, new trophies and new connections." he said.

"I trust the RQWA will continue to stay as current and connected as possible. With the continued support of Australian winemakers, it will surely grow and flourish with more entries and even more prestige."

The wine judged Australia's best (2024 Angelo Puglisi Grand Champion Wine of Show) will receive a \$12,000 fellowship to further the winemaker's knowledge of the national and international wine industry, with funds to be used for travel, training and education. Other prizes include a \$5,000 bursary awarded to the exhibitor of the Dr Bill Ryan Best Pinot Noir of Show.

The wines, including the award-winners, will be showcased to consumers at the popular Grape Grazing by Night event at the Brisbane Showgrounds on Friday 12 July. Queensland's premier wine tasting event is attended by more than 900 people each year.

Entries for the RQWA must be in by Friday 31 May, with judging taking place from Monday 1 July to Thursday 4 July and the winners to be announced on Friday 12 July before Grape Grazing by Night.

To enter go to [www.rqa.com.au](http://www.rqa.com.au)

**ENTRIES OPEN – FRIDAY 1 MARCH**

**ENTRIES CLOSE – FRIDAY 31 MAY**

**JUDGING – MONDAY 1 TO THURSDAY 4 JULY**

**WINNERS ANNOUNCED – FRIDAY 12 JULY**

Don't forget to follow us on social media **@royalqueenslandawards**

---

#### **MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

Veronica Carew  
General Manager Communications  
Ph: 07 3253 3930/ 0408 323 631  
Email: [vcarew@rqa.org.au](mailto:vcarew@rqa.org.au)

Olivia Hatch  
Senior Media Consultant  
Ph: 0408 743 745  
Email: [ohatch@rqa.org.au](mailto:ohatch@rqa.org.au)