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MEDIA RELEASE

2 February 2026

From grape to glory as entries open for national wine competition

Australian winemakers can gain expert feedback and compete for more than \$18,000 in prizes, with entries now open for the 2026 Royal Queensland Awards (RQA) Wine competition supported by King Street and The Star Brisbane.

The competition provides winemakers with the opportunity to have their recently bottled wines assessed, with judging to begin in June under Chief Judge Julian Langworthy.

Mr Langworthy said he was looking forward to his second year in the role.

"I'm pleased to lead an exceptional and diverse group of 24 judges whose experience spans winemaking, hospitality, retail, media and education," he said.

"Their collective knowledge allows us to consider entries from a wide and informed perspective, ensuring that the finest wines are identified across every style."

A \$12,000 fellowship is on offer for the Angelo Puglisi Grand Champion Wine of Show, supporting the winning winemaker to further their knowledge of the national and international wine industry. A \$5,000 bursary will also be awarded to the exhibitor of the Dr Bill Ryan Best Pinot Noir of Show.

Meanwhile the winner of The Star Entertainment Group Emerging Queensland Winemaker of the Year will receive a \$1,500 bursary, have their wines featured in The Star's outlets and become an RQA Associate Judge in 2027.

This year, the RQA is also partnering with several leading Queensland bottle shops to promote the winners through mailing list and in-store promotions to wine loving consumers in the local market.

"This is an exciting initiative that ensures the wines recognised through such a thorough and rigorous process are celebrated and easily accessible," Mr Langworthy said.

"The Royal Queensland Awards is a competition defined by quality and passion, supported by people who are committed to strengthening the Australian wine landscape."

Judging will take place from Monday 29 June 2026 at the Brisbane Showgrounds, with the results announcement to follow on Thursday 9 July.



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Entries close Tuesday 29 May 2026. To enter go to rqa.com.au

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