



22 March, 2016

## Australia's finest wines set to be unearthed

The hunt is on for the nation's finest wines, with entries for the Royal Queensland Wine Show (RQWS) now open.

This is the first year renowned winemaker David Bicknell will be at the reigns of the prestigious competition, taking over from PJ Charteris as Chief Judge.

The CEO and Chief Winemaker at award-winning Oakridge wines in the Yarra Valley will ensure winemakers are put to the ultimate test, in order to find Australia's best of the best.

The team of highly experienced judges will be the first to critically review the 2016 vintage in Australia, setting the benchmark for the industry and letting wine lovers know which bottles to uncork.

The competition, which started back in 1876, continues to go from strength to strength, with 2,186 wines sniffed, swirled and tasted last year –an increase of almost 30 per cent over the past two years.

There have been several changes to the class structure this year, including expanding the sparkling classes from six to nine, allowing for better comparison at the judging table.

The fortified wines have also been re-organised, while changes to the grouping of the white wine classes will make for a more streamlined schedule.

The RQWS endeavours to give Australian wineries exposure and helps promote the nation's diverse growing regions, the winemakers and their best drops.

Entries close on April 29, with judging taking place from June 27-30 and a special public showcase, Grape Grazing by Night – Celebrating Australian Wine on July 8.

The showcase gives wine enthusiasts the chance to sample some of the nation's finest, while getting insider knowledge from the expert judges and passionate winemakers.

Last year's showcase attracted more than 500 consumers, who tasted their way through the best in Australian cheese, beef, lamb and ice cream sourced from the prestigious RQWS.

**ENTRIES CLOSE 29 April**

**JUDGING 27-30 June**

**AWARDS AND PUBLIC SHOWCASE 8 July**

Visit [www.rqfws.com.au](http://www.rqfws.com.au) for more information



## Media Release

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