



**ROYAL
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AWARDS**
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MEDIA RELEASE

3 February 2025

Australian winemakers to set the standard at Royal Queensland Awards

Australian winemakers now have their first chance to showcase their newly bottled wines, with entries open for the Royal Queensland Awards (RQA) supported by King Street.

Judging will commence in June, with new Chief Judge Julian Langworthy leading a diverse panel of 26 industry experts from across the country including winemakers, sommeliers, restaurateurs, retailers, journalists and educators.

Mr Langworthy said the Awards were an integral part of the capital city wine show circuit and an opportune time for winemakers to have their recently bottled 2024 wines assessed.

“The RQA has helped define and refine Australian winemaking and wine styles for 148 years and has a bright future in continuing to do so,” he said.

“In my first year as Chief Judge, I feel very humbled and honoured to play such an important role within this process.”

Along with meaningful feedback from experienced judges, the RQA offers more than \$18,000 in prizes.

There is a \$12,000 fellowship on offer for the Angelo Puglisi Grand Champion Wine of Show to further the winemaker’s knowledge of the national and international wine industry, plus a \$5,000 bursary for the exhibitor of the Dr Bill Ryan Best Pinot Noir of Show.

Meanwhile the winner of the Emerging Queensland Winemaker of the Year presented by The Star will receive a \$1,500 bursary, have their top drops featured in The Star’s outlets and become an RQA Associate Judge in 2026.

New in the competition this year is a trophy award for the Best Organic or Biodynamic Wine of Show, along with new Low Alcohol and De-Alcoholised classes.

“I am very hopeful of getting strong entries within the new Low Alcohol and De-alcoholised classes to help support and encourage excellence in this growing segment of the industry,” Mr Langworthy said.

The RQA medal-winners will be showcased to consumers at the popular Grape Grazing by Night event at the Brisbane Showgrounds on Friday 11 July, which attracts around 900 attendees each year.



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Entries close Friday 30 May 2025. Winemakers can enter now at www.rqa.com.au/competitions/wine-awards

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

Veronica Carew
General Manager Communications
Ph: 07 3253 3930/ 0408 323 631
Email: vcarew@rna.org.au

Nicole Clifton
Media & Communications Advisor
Ph: 0417 451 775
Email: nclifton@rna.org.au