



Media Alert

June 30, 2014

Judging begins on Australia's top drops

Brisbane welcomes Australia and New Zealand's top wine judges as the country's best wineries go head to head in the prestigious Royal Queensland Wine Show (RQWS), starting today at the Brisbane Showgrounds.

Chief Judge and award-winning winemaker PJ Charteris, with his team of expert judges, will taste more than 2000 Australian wines before they make the tough decision of crowning the best of the best at an awards dinner on July 8.

Crowned Hunter Valley Winemaker of the Year in 2010, Mr Charteris has worked in New Zealand, Australia, Europe and the Americas in search of the perfect drop – his passions are making Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

Mr Charteris has hand-picked the RQWS judging panel and will be joined by award-winning winemakers David Bicknell, Samantha Connew, Mike DeGaris and Cliff Royle as Panel Judges along with first time RQWS judge Ben Glover from Wither Hills in Marlborough, New Zealand.

The RQWS has received entries from wine regions across Australia including the iconic Barossa Valley, Victoria's Milawa region, the Hunter Valley, Queensland's Granite Belt and Western Australia's Margaret River to name a few.

WHAT: Royal Queensland Wine Show Judging

WHEN: Monday, June 30 – Thursday, July 3

WHERE: The Exhibition Building, Brisbane Showgrounds - 600 Gregory Terrace, Bowen Hills 4006

Media Enquiries:

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ROYAL QUEENSLAND WINE SHOW JUDGES

Chief Judge: PJ Charteris

Crowned Hunter Valley Winemaker of the Year in 2010, Mr Charteris has worked in New Zealand, Australia, Europe and the Americas in search of the perfect drop – his passions are making Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

Mr Charteris joined the Royal Queensland Wine Show as Chief Judge in 2013. The show has gone from strength to strength under his direction.

He splits his time between New Zealand's Central Otago and the Hunter Valley and runs his own successful label, Charteris Wines.

About the Panel Judges:

David Bicknell – Chief Winemaker and CEO at Oakridge, Yarra Valley and a respected wine judge, Dave joins the panel again after a busy year at the famous Oakridge Winery.

Samantha Connew - Samantha launched her own label 'Stargazer' in Tasmania in 2013. She won the International Red Winemaker of the Year at London's International Wine Challenge 2007 and who will take up the position of Chief Wine Judge Sydney in 2015.

Mike DeGaris - Mike joins the panel with a life time of experience as a winemaker and wholesaler in Australia and New Zealand.

Cliff Royle – After spending 12 years as Chief Winemaker at Voyager Estate, Cliff is now at award-winning winery, Flametree Wines. He's been described as "one of the most gifted wine makers of his generation."

Judges:

Ben Glover – Mr Glover has just finished his 11th Vintage at the famous Wither Hills Vineyards in Marlborough, New Zealand

Nick Ryan - Nick is a leading wine & food commentator. He has recently returned to Adelaide after a year in France

Kim Bickley - Business Manager Fine Wine Partners Sydney

Trina Smith - Senior Sparkling Winemaker at Treasury Wine Estates

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Sarah Crow - Winemaker at Yarra Yering, Yarra Valley
Kate Goodman - Director / Winemaker at Goodman Wines and Chief Winemaker at Punt Road Wines
Ian Hongell - Senior Winemaker at Peter Lehmann Wines
Tony Harper - Owner of Craft Wine Store, Queensland
David Brookes - Principal Consultant at Wine Marketing Labs, Adelaide and a regular contributor to Australia's leading food and wine magazines
Toby Barlow - Senior Winemaker at St Hallett Wines, Barossa Australia

Associates to Judge:

Andrew Beehre
Brent Williamson
David Castro-Stevens
Evan Jones
Glen Robert
Gwyneth Olsen
Thomas Hogan
Troy Overstone
Warren Smith

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