



7 October 2011

**UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 8.00PM FRIDAY 7 OCTOBER 2011**

## **Tasmanian wine comes out winner**

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Canberra International Riesling Challenge has seen a Tasmanian wine win the top Award for the first time in the Challenge's history.

The Challenge, held this week at the historic Albert Hall, saw Australian Rieslings go head to head with those from countries around the world including Germany, America, Austria and New Zealand.

Seven judges tasted over 440 wines from ten countries over two days to find the Best Dry Riesling, Best Sweet Riesling and finally the Best Wine of the Challenge.

At tonight's Celebration of Riesling and Awards Presentation ceremony at the Hyatt Hotel in Canberra, *Waterton Vineyards Riesling 2009* from Tasmania, picked up the awards for the Best Riesling from Tasmania, the Best in Australia and the Best Dry Riesling. The wine then went off to be judged against the Best Sweet Riesling, won by *Weingut Georg Müller Stiftung, Hattenheimer Schützenhaus Beerenauslese 2009* from Germany, for the Best Wine of the Challenge.

Chairman of Judges, David O'Leary, from O'Leary Walker Wines said that this year's judging proved to be challenging, caused by the difficult vintages in recent years in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.

"Despite the difficult vintages, some great wines were presented which finger printed the individual characteristics of the regions," Mr O'Leary said.

Chair of the Riesling Challenge, Ken Helm AM, said the judging of wines from each region across all countries highlights the unique characteristics of the individual regions.

"This is a major feature of the Canberra International Riesling Challenge in its promotion of Riesling as the pre-eminent white wine of the world," he said.

The trophy for the Best Current Vintage Australia was won by *West Cape Howe Riesling 2011*, from the Great Southern region in Western Australia.

"Its fantastic to see regions like Tasmania and the Great Southern producing world class Rieslings, that can hold their own against some of the top Riesling producers in the world," Mr Helm said.

The ACT Chief Minister's Award for the Best Riesling from the Canberra District was won by *Brindabella Hills Riesling 2011*.

Orlando Wines' *St Helga Eden Valley Riesling 2002* won the Best Australian Museum Class, with the *Hunter's Wines Marlborough Riesling 2009* winning the Best from New Zealand.

David O'Leary and Nick Walker from O'Leary Walker Wines, were presented with the Wolf Blass Award in recognition of their outstanding contribution to winemaking and for setting the highest standards in the development of Riesling.

Jacob Stein, winemaker at Robert Stein Winery in Mudgee was awarded the inaugural Encouragement Award for up and coming Riesling Winemakers.

Attached is the full list of Award winning wines.

Media inquiries: Ken Helm AM, CIRC Chair  
CIRC Secretariat

0418 619 186  
02 6290 1505

## **AWARDS**

### **Best Wine of the Challenge**

Waterton Vineyards Riesling 2009 (Class 4, Exhibitor 390, Tasmania, Australia)

### **ACT Government and Hyatt Hotel Canberra Award Best in Australia**

Waterton Vineyards Riesling 2009 (Class 4, Exhibitor 390, Tasmania, Australia)

### **Australia Post Award Best Dry Riesling**

Waterton Vineyards Riesling 2009 (Class 4, Exhibitor 390, Tasmania, Australia)

### **Lallemand Award Best Sweet Riesling**

Weingut Georg Müller Stiftung,  
Hattenheimer Schützenhaus Beerenauslese 2009 (Class 15, Exhibitor 396, Rheingau, Germany)

### **Jim Murphy AM Perpetual Trophy Best Current Vintage Australia**

West Cape Howe Riesling 2011 (Class 1, Exhibitor 408, Great Southern, Australia)

### **ActewAGL Award Best Australian Museum Class**

Orlando Wines St Helga Eden Valley Riesling 2002 (Class 7, Exhibitor 260, Eden Valley, Australia)

### **Best Riesling from New Zealand**

Hunter's Wines Marlborough Riesling 2009 (Class 4, Exhibitor 154, Marlborough, New Zealand)

### **German Ambassador's Trophy Best European Riesling**

Weingut Georg Müller Stiftung,  
Hattenheimer Schützenhaus Beerenauslese 2009 (Class 15, Exhibitor 396, Rheingau, Germany)

### **USA Perpetual Trophy Best American Riesling**

Sheldrake Point Riesling Ice Wine 2010 (Class 12, Exhibitor 330, Cayuga Lake, USA)

### **ACT Chief Minister's Trophy Best from the Canberra District**

Brindabella Hills Riesling 2011 (Class 1, Exhibitor 39, Canberra District, Australia)

### **Tamar Valley Wine Route Trophy Best Riesling from Tasmania**

Waterton Vineyards Riesling 2009 (Class 4, Exhibitor 390, Tasmania, Australia)

### **Shaw Vineyard Estate and Kamberra Wine Company Encouragement Award for up and coming Riesling Winemakers**

Jacob Stein, Winemaker, Robert Stein Winery

### **Wolf Blass Award**

David O'Leary and Nick Walker  
O'Leary Walker Wines

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