



1 September 2011

## Chief Minister launches the 12<sup>th</sup> Canberra International Riesling Challenge

The Chief Minister, Katy Gallagher MLA, has today officially launched the 2011 Canberra International Riesling Challenge at the Hyatt Hotel Canberra.

The Challenge, now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year, is the largest single event of its kind in the southern hemisphere and this year has attracted entries from 10 different countries.

The Chief Minister said “The reputation of Canberra wines continues to grow throughout the world and it is fitting that we host one of the world’s premier events which will see the best varieties of Riesling in the world go head-to-head with our very own local product.”

CIRC Chairman, Ken Helm AM, said that the support the Challenge has received from the ACT Government has directly contributed to the growing success of the event.

“The former Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope, was a great supporter of the Challenge and I wish to put on record our thanks and appreciation for all the assistance provided to the CIRC during his patronage.”

“The CIRC Committee is delighted that Katy Gallagher has accepted our invitation to be Patron of the CIRC and I am sure she will enjoy her involvement in the Challenge,” Mr Helm said.

“I am very proud to be the new patron of the Riesling Challenge and to be associated with an event that promotes Canberra and its winemakers so prominently,” Ms Gallagher said.

This year’s Challenge is shaping up to be another exciting event.

Mr Helm said that despite a small drop in overall entries this year, the actual number of countries represented has increased to 10.”

“We are excited to see Austria and Canada once again entering the Challenge – they are significant Riesling producing countries and their participation further cements the CIRC as a major, internationally-recognised wine show.” Mr Helm said.

This year the Hyatt Hotel Canberra will run a week long series of events featuring Riesling in conjunction with the CIRC.

“We are delighted to have the Hyatt Hotel Canberra showcasing Riesling throughout the week.” Mr Helm said.

The CIRC are offering Australian entrants the opportunity to be involved in these events and this will further increase the potential exposure entrants to the Challenge will receive for their wine.

Mr Helm said, “the support we receive from Riesling producers around the world and our sponsors will ensure the Challenge continues to grow and develop into even a greater success than it already is.”

In recognition of the contribution Jim Murphy AM, Deputy Chair and founding committee member, made to the CIRC, a trophy will be presented in his name each year to the winner of the Best Current Vintage Australia.

The judging will take place from 4 – 6 October 2011 with the winners announced and presented on Friday 7 October. The popular Exhibitors and Public Tasting will be held on Saturday, 8 October 2011.

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