



31 May 2011

Entries Open for the 2011 Canberra International Riesling Challenge

Entries for the 2011 Canberra International Riesling Challenge (CIRC) will open from tomorrow, 1 June 2011.

The Challenge, now in its 12th year, will be held from 3 – 8 October 2011, at the Hyatt Hotel Canberra and the Albert Hall.

The Canberra International Riesling Challenge is a unique opportunity for Riesling producers to showcase their product. As the largest event of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, the Challenge has become a major, internationally-recognised wine show attracting entries from all over the world.

CIRC Chairman, Ken Helm AM, said that last year's event was a great success with a record number of Australian entries and nine countries represented world wide.

"2010 saw a high calibre of entries, from both Australia and overseas and we are excited to see what this year will bring," Mr Helm said.

2011 will for the first time see the presentation of the *Encouragement Award for up and coming Riesling Winemakers*. The cash prize of \$3000 will be awarded to a wine made by a person who is in their first seven years of winemaking.

"The introduction of the Encouragement Award demonstrates the commitment the CIRC has to fostering the development of Riesling winemaking and recognising innovation in this variety of wine," Mr Helm said.

This year, entrants will be competing for the prestigious *The Best Wine of the Challenge*. This trophy will only be awarded to a wine if the judges deem it to be exceptional in every aspect.

This year will see two new judges added to the prestigious judging panel - Don Young, Senior White Winemaker, Orlando Wines and Alexander Kohnen, Managing Director of the International Wine Institute, Germany.

"We are delighted to have Don and Alexander on board this year. They are both highly regarded judges and will only strengthen our already well qualified panel," Mr Helm said.

David O'Leary from O'Leary Walker Wines, will serve the last year of his three year tenure as Chair of Judges. With us again from last year is Brent Marris, Winemaker and Director, The Ned Winery, New Zealand; Ben Edwards, journalist and President of Sommeliers Australia; Jeni Port, journalist and Toni Paterson, journalist and Master of Wine.

Entries can be made online by visiting the website at www.rieslingchallenge.com, or by downloading a copy of the entry form.

Entries close on 22 July 2011. 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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