



30 September 2011

Judging set to start in the 12th Canberra International Riesling Challenge

Judging is set to start on Tuesday 4 October 2011 in the 12th Canberra International Riesling Challenge (CIRC).

With 444 entries from 10 countries world wide, the 2011 Challenge is shaping up to be another exciting event. Now in its 12th year, the CIRC is the largest single event of its kind in the southern hemisphere and is recognised as a major international wine show on the world calendar.

CIRC Chairman, Ken Helm AM, said this year will see a number of initiatives added to the week long event.

“We are delighted that the Hyatt Hotel Canberra, one of our major sponsors, is showcasing Riesling in a series of Riesling and Cheese events 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.

The National Wine and Grape Industry Centre at Charles Sturt University will once again hold a Seminar on Riesling Excellence aimed at winemakers, sommeliers, and Riesling lovers. This Seminar, entitled *Riesling the Queen - Long May She Reign*, will discuss such topics as; Cultural change; organic or otherwise, and Trends in German Rieslings.

In his final year as the Chairman of Judges, David O’Leary, Chief Winemaker at O’Leary Walker Wines, will head up a first class line up of Australian and International judges, which includes Ben Edwards, President of Sommeliers Australia; Jeni Port, wine journalist and Toni Paterson, journalist and Master of Wine.

They will be joined by Don Young, Senior White Winemaker at Orlando Wines in his first year as a judge at the CIRC.

“We are also delighted to have on board Brent Marris from New Zealand and Alexander Kohlen from the International Wine Institute in Germany,” Mr Helm said.

2011 will for the first time see the introduction of the *Best Wine of the Challenge* award. This trophy will only be awarded if the judges deem a wine to be exceptional in every aspect. Another initiative for 2011 is the new Encouragement Award for up and coming Riesling Winemakers. This award demonstrates the commitment the CIRC has to fostering the development of Riesling winemaking and recognising innovation in this variety of wine.

The popular Public Tasting will be held on Saturday 8 October and for the first time those attending will receive a Riedel tasting glass to use to enjoy the wine and to take home with them as a memento of the Challenge.

The judging will take place from 4 – 6 October 2011 with the winners announced and presented on Friday 7 October. Further details of all the events can be found on the CIRC website at www.rieslingchallenge.com.

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