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2012 Canberra International Riesling Challenge has new Chairman of Judges

Planning is underway for the 2012 Canberra International Riesling Challenge (CIRC) which will be held from 8 – 13 October 2012.

The Riesling Challenge is delighted to announce that Ben Edwards, wine journalist and President of Sommeliers Australia, has been appointed Chairman of Judges for the Canberra International Riesling Challenge for the next three years.

Ben brings over 20 years experience in the wine industry to the Riesling Challenge. He is the Creative Director of Wine for the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival and the sole co-contributor to Australia's best selling wine guide, the James Halliday Australian Wine Comparison.

Ben takes over from David O'Leary from O'Leary Walker Wines, who finished his three year tenure this year.

The 13th Challenge is an opportunity for Riesling producers around the world to showcase their wine and to compete for the prestigious *Wine of the Challenge* award.

Ken Helm AM, Chairman of the CIRC, said feedback received from various producers is that demand for their product has been steadily increasing, largely due to events like the Riesling Challenge which promotes the variety and the regions.

"The 2011 results saw a Tasmanian wine, the Waterton Vineyards Riesling 2009, take out the top award, over wines from Germany, the USA and New Zealand. It's fantastic to see some of the lesser known Riesling areas producing world class wines," Mr Helm said.

To see the 2011 full results go to: www.rieslingchallenge.com

"David O'Leary's time as Chairman of Judges was pivotal in raising the profile of the Challenge and on behalf of the Committee of the CIRC, I would like to thank him for his commitment, interest and enthusiasm during his three year term," Mr Helm said.

More details regarding the 2012 Canberra International Riesling Challenge will be released in the coming months.

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