



23 October, 2008

Finalists Announcement – 2008 Royal Melbourne Wine Awards

Judging for the 2008 Royal Melbourne Wine Show, Australia's largest and most prestigious wine show, commenced last week with local and international judges tasting 3,300 wines from 518 wineries vying for the 21 awards up for grabs at the annual event.

Last night, the finalists for the most prestigious of the 21 awards on offer at The Royal Melbourne Wine Show, the renowned Jimmy Watson Memorial Trophy and the Premiers Gold Trophy were announced by Allan Watson (son of Jimmy Watson) and Minister Jacinta Allan.

Minister Jacinta Allan discussed Regional Development Victoria's contribution to the Victorian wine industry, detailing several grassroots initiatives, including the announcement of the Provincial Victoria Sommelier Scholarship recipient, Gabrielle Poy.

A panel of judges including, Chairman of Judges, Steve Webber and international judges, Debra Meiburg and Sam Harrop, discussed their experiences at this year's wine show with particular regard to the standard of wines in Australia and the new categories introduced this year.

Guests at the event had the exclusive opportunity to taste the finalists of both the Jimmy Watson Memorial Trophy and Premier's Gold Trophy.

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For all media inquiries, please contact Wrights PR on behalf of the RASV on 9690 9911
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Gold Medal Quality Wine in Jimmy Watson Classes - Vintage 2007

Fraser Gallop Estate - Cabernet Sauvignon
Watershed Premium Wine - Awakening Cabernet
Mount Langi Ghiran - Langi Shiraz
Evans & Tate - Reserve Shiraz
Charles Sturt University - Shiraz
Xabregas - Shiraz
Bay of Fires - Pinot Noir
Paringa Estate - Pinot Noir
Flametree - Cabernet Merlot
Clockwork - Cabernet Merlot
Amberley - Cabernet Merot
Fraser Gallop Estate - Cabernet Merlot
Millbrook - Limited Release Shiraz Cabernet
Blackbilly - GSM
Starvedog Lane - Shiraz Viognier

Premiers Contenders

Helen's Hill - Chardonnay 2007
Allinda - Barrel Select Chardonnay 2007
Delatite Winery - Riesling 2008
B. Seppelt - Jaluka Chardonnay 2006
R L Buller & Son - Beverford Gold Botrytis Semillon 2006



2008 Royal Melbourne Wine Show

The Royal Melbourne Wine Show is recognised by the wine producers as an important competition in which to benchmark their produce and celebrate excellence, by recognising high quality wines across a range of varietals and styles. The most prestigious of the 21 awards on offer is the renowned **Jimmy Watson Memorial Trophy** – the best red wine of the vintage year prior to the current vintage year, and the **Premiers Gold Trophy** – for the best Victorian wine in show.

Making up the high profile judging panel, chaired by new Chairman of Judges, Steve Webber will be international judges, Debra E Meiburg and Sam Harrop MW, both of whom form part of only 253 people in the world that are recognised Masters of Wine.

Debra E Meiburg of Hong Kong is a Qualified Wine Judge and Wine Educator and has judged wine shows on four continents. Formerly a wine professor, Debra writes a weekly column in the major daily newspaper in China and is a contributing editor to the Asian Tatler Magazines. In 2007, Debra was voted as the Most Influential Wine Journalist in Hong Kong by 500 members of the wine trade.

Sam Harrop MW is a leading consultant winemaker from London. He has worked as a wine buyer for influential retailers and runs his own boutique wine making operation in France. Sam is one of only 22 people to receive the Tim Derouet Award for outstanding performance since it was founded in 1976.

The winners will be announced at the Royal Melbourne Wine Show presentation dinner to be held on 13 November at the Hilton on the Park. The evening is an important industry event that provides guests with the opportunity to exclusively sample the award winning wines, while mingling with some of Australia's leading winemakers.

Limited tickets can be purchased by contacting Henry Clayton at the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria (RASV) 9281 7464 OR henry.clayton@rasv.com.au