



## **2017 NSW Wine of the Year: an oldie but a goodie!**

The **2017 NSW Wine Awards** top trophy results will be announced at the gala Presentation Lunch at Pier One Sydney Harbour on Friday 27th October, with 18 trophies being handed out to the state's best wines. These awards include the ultimate title of 'NSW Governor's 2017 Best in Show', which this year has gone to a 12 year old white wine that has a 20 year old history with the NSW Wine Awards.

Tom Ward, President of the NSW Wine Industry Association, says, "We are very proud to see the variety of winners, not just across different wineries but across the different regions of NSW. The NSW Wine Awards has continued to evolve into 'the' premium wine show for all NSW Wine wineries, truly showcasing the diversity and stunning quality of our wines. We are also delighted that this year our main trophy is being presented by the Governor of New South Wales and we are naming it the NSW Governor's 2017 Best in Show Trophy. This shows the strengthening relationship between our state's wine industry and the NSW Government."

The wines to be awarded trophies at the 2017 *Pier One Sydney Harbour* NSW Wine Awards are as follows...

*Mudgee Wines* Trophy for Best Young Riesling ~ Robert Stein 2017 Dry Riesling (Mudgee)  
*Pier One* Trophy for Best Young Sauvignon Blanc ~ Highland Heritage Estate 2016 Fume Blanc (Orange)  
*NSW DPI* Trophy for Best Young Semillon ~ Bimbadgen 2017 Signature Palmers Lane Semillon (Hunter Valley)  
*Longfellows Midland* Trophy for Best Young Chardonnay ~ Brokenwood 2016 Forest Edge Chardonnay (Orange)  
*Pier One* Trophy for Best Young White Other Varieties ~ Hungerford Hill 2016 Pinot Gris (Tumbarumba)  
*National Wine & Grape Industry Centre* Trophy for Best Mature Dry White ~ Tyrrell's 2005 Vat 1 Semillon (Hunter Valley)  
*Pier One* Trophy for Best Light Red ~ De Iuliis Wines 2017 Special Release Grenache (Hilltops)  
*Orora Stelvin* Trophy for Best Young Shiraz ~ Lerida Estate 2016 Shiraz (Canberra)  
*Riedel* Trophy for Best Young Cabernet Sauvignon ~ Tamburlaine 2016 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Orange)  
*MultiColor* Trophy for Best Young Other Red Varieties ~ Briar Ridge 2016 Limited Release Tempranillo (Hilltops/Hunter)  
*Nexia Australia* Trophy for Best Young Red Blend ~ Shaw Vineyard Estate 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon/Shiraz (Canberra)  
*Australia Post* Trophy for Best Mature Red ~ Montoro wines 2013 Pepper Shiraz (Orange)  
*NSW DPI* Award for Best Organic Wine ~ Tamburlaine 2016 Orange Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Orange)  
**CiSRA Canon Trophy for Best Sparkling Wine** ~ Courabyra Wines 2013 805 Sparkling (Tumbarumba)  
**Pier One Trophy for Best Sweet Wine** ~ De Bortoli Wines Noble One 2015 Semillon (Riverina)  
**Pier One Trophy Best Dry White of Show** ~ Tyrrell's 2005 Vat 1 Semillon (Hunter Valley)  
**CCL Labels Trophy for Best Dry Red of Show** ~ Lerida Estate 2016 Shiraz (Canberra)  
**NSW Governor's Trophy for Best in Show** ~ Tyrrell's 2005 Vat 1 Semillon (Hunter Valley)

The latter of these trophies is obviously the top honours and took some discussions between the judges. Chair of Judges Dave Brookes comments, "The line-up of wines in this year's trophy judging was fantastic and it was a tough decision, but we eventually awarded the ultimate title to the **Tyrrell's 2005 Vat 1 Semillon** from the Hunter Valley; a wine whose provenance is without question, having now amassed some 31 trophies in its wine show career. The wine's history also runs deep within the NSW Wine Awards, as in 1997 (only the second year the Awards had been held) the 1992 Vat 1 Semillon also won the title of wine of the year.

While it may not come as a surprise that an aged Hunter Valley Semillon took out the top award, it is without doubt one of the great wine styles of Australia with an enviable track record of both deliciousness and cellaring ability. To see these fledgling wines bloom over time in the cellar into complex, benchmark wines that sing true of their variety and the land from which they hail is one of life's great pleasures. We are indeed lucky to have one of the world's benchmark wine styles right on our doorstep in the Hunter Valley."