



ANNOUNCING THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST 2019 NSW SOMMELIER'S WINE LIST AWARDS

The NSW Wine Industry Association (NSWWIA), Restaurant & Catering Association (R&CA) and Destination NSW were delighted to launch the inaugural NSW SOMMELIER'S WINE LIST AWARDS earlier this year and after an exciting judging process they were even more thrilled to announce the results last night at a prestigious Awards Presentation at NSW Parliament House.

These new look awards were created to showcase, support and reward the Sommeliers and restaurants in Sydney and regional NSW that offer their customers a great wine experience and a range of delicious local wines, highlighting the quality and diversity of wines being produced in the state of NSW. The latest research commissioned by the NSWWIA shows an encouraging 14% of the space on NSW restaurant's wine lists being given to local wines (an increase of 28%) but we are still somewhat behind some other states. The NSWWIA believes it is critical for the future of the NSW wine industry that we are seen more prominently on our own wine lists, and we hope activities such as these new Awards will bring more attention to the wines of NSW.

The inaugural awards attracted a promising range of applicants, with large and small Sydney venues participating and restaurants from all across regional NSW entering, including venues from the wine regions of the Hunter Valley, Orange, Mudgee, the Canberra District, Southern Highlands, Shoalhaven Coast, the Riverina and Hastings River.

Wine lists were judged by the NSW Wine Industry Association and two experienced, independent judges, Mark Baulderstone, Managing Director of Riedel Australia and award-winning, multi-media presenter Lyndey Milan, OAM.

The trophies were presented on the evening by NSW Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney Stuart Ayres who said it's vital to recognise those who are championing the industry at a grassroots level.

"NSW remains Australia's number one tourism State, and a key part of that ongoing success is the incredible diversity of food and wine experiences on offer which help to drive visitation. This sector contributes around \$9.2 billion annually to the NSW visitor economy, so it's important to celebrate the Sommelier's, restaurants and wine bars who are often our best advocates on-the-ground."

And the winners are ...

Best NSW Wine List in a Regional NSW venue – small

Harrison Plant from EXP Restaurant, Pokolbin

The winner of this category receives a copy of the 2019 R&CA Benchmarking Report, a Year's Free Membership in R&CA, and 2 Free Tickets to the 2020 NSW AFE Awards!

Best NSW Wine List in a Regional NSW venue – mid/large

Pete Cutcliffe & Jennifer Paquet from Bill's Fish House, Port Macquarie

The winner of this category receives automatic entry into Australia's Wine List of the Year Awards

Continued ...

Best NSW Wine List in a Sydney venue – small

Ronnie Gorman from Saint Peter, Paddington

The winner of this category receives a stunning pack of perfectly aged wines, free managed storage for 2 years at Wine-Ark Alexandria for up to 20 dozen and zero buyers fee on all vintage wine sales for 1 year up to the value of \$10,000 of sales.

Best NSW Wine List in a Sydney venue – mid

David Murphy from One Penny Red, Summer Hill

The winner of this category receives an expert wine glass consultation, specifically tailored to them and their wine list, and a stunning range of 300 glasses to match the results of the consultation.

Best NSW Wine List in a Sydney venue – large

Addy Lam from Flying Fish, Pyrmont

The winner of this category receives automatic entry into Australia's Wine List of the Year Awards

NSW WIA President's Award for Outstanding Support of the NSW Wine Industry

William Wilson from ICC Sydney

This Award is a special award for the inaugural year and was presented to a venue that just missed out on their category, but nonetheless impressed the judges and the President of the NSW Wine Industry Association, Mark Bourne, with its outstanding commitment to showcasing NSW wines. The ICC attracts a very large number of local, national and international visitors every year and by having 100% of NSW wines available at their venue (by Jan 2020), they have been a champion at showcasing NSW wines to the widest audience this year, and considering the size of their venue, they are arguably the single biggest buyer of NSW wines in the State.

2019 NSW Sommelier's Wine List of the Year

Pete Cutcliffe & Jennifer Paquet from Bill's Fish House, Port Macquarie

Our overall winner receives a stunning Vintec 170 bottle wine cabinet

A massive congratulations to all the winners and in particular Pete and Jennifer from Bill's Fish House whose list was described by the judges as an exceptionally well thought out list, with not only nearly 100% of its wines from NSW but also an impressive range covering 8 different wine regions and highlighting the strong and exciting wine styles from each region.

Thank you to our special prize partners who have supported these awards and provided some great prizes for our winning Sommeliers – R&CA, Riedel, Wine-Ark, Vintec and Australia's Wine List of the Year Awards.

