



Media Release: 15 September 2019 - for immediate release

Riverina Winemakers Association: Inaugural 'Riverina Legend' award announced and local success celebrated at the 2019 Wine Show Awards Dinner

Les Worland announced as the inaugural 'Riverina Legend'

Given the Riverina wine region's rich history and importance to the national industry, the Riverina Winemakers Association Wine Show Committee felt compelled to develop this award to recognise and celebrate the contributions made by an individual, working across any sector of their local wine industry.

The committee encouraged nominations from local wineries, and affiliated organisations and businesses connected to the wine region. As the nominations came in it was clear that there were Riverina Legends in abundance, but the stand out nominee was Les Worland.

With a career spanning multiple wineries and roles, Les has continually championed the local wine region, no matter who he is working for and in what capacity. Currently, in Public Relations and Training and Education for Casella Family Brands, Les has also worked for other wineries in the region such as De Bortoli Wines and McWilliam's Wines. For a decade, Les was the President of the Riverina Winemakers Association and dedicated over 30 years to supporting the operation and success of the local wine show. Even today, Les will make sure to drop in and just say hello whenever the wine show is on.

Les is highly revered in the local industry not only for his work but also for his friendly, laid back demeanour and an endless supply of jokes. On Friday night, 13th September 2019, when Les's name was announced as the winner, the entire room filled with 200 people rose to their feet and cheered on the worthy winner. Les was surprised and greatly humbled by the award.

QUOTES

"Les has inspired and educated many people about Riverina Wine. He has devoted many hours of service to our industry. Quite simply, without people like Les (full of passion and dedication) the Riverina Wine Show would have ceased to exist many years ago." Emma Norbiato, Chief Winemaker, Calabria Family Wines

"Les is a stalwart in the wine community within the Riverina region. He is a well-known face in the industry who supports our Riverina region with great passion and pride." Russell Cody, Head Steward of the Wine Show & Chief Winemaker, McWilliam's Wines

'Local wineries celebrate great success'

The Riverina Winemakers Association wine show awards dinner was attended by 200 people at the Yenda Memorial Hall, Friday 13th September 2019.

Of the 32 Trophies awarded on Friday night, 18 of those trophies were picked up by our local wineries. Calabria Family Wines, McWilliam's Family Winemakers and De Bortoli Family Wines picked up a swag of trophies each, and Dee Vine Estate and Trimboli Family Wines also enjoyed success.



Media Release: 15 September 2019 - for immediate release

Riverina Winemakers Association: Inaugural 'Riverina Legend' award announced and local success celebrated at the 2019 Wine Show Awards Dinner

OPEN SHOW RESULTS	
Best Pinot Noir	Calabria Pierre D'Amour 2018 Pinot Noir
The Sean Hampel Trophy - Best Shiraz	McWilliam's 2018 Single Vineyard Shiraz
Best Dry Red Other	McWilliam's Alternis 2017 Tempranillo
Best Red Wine of Show	McWilliam's 2018 Single Vineyard Shiraz
Best Popular Premium Red	De Bortoli Woodfired 2018 Shiraz
Best Popular Premium Sparkling	De Bortoli Lorimer NV Chardonnay Pinot Noir
Best Still Wine of Show - Ian Bicego Memorial Trophy.	McWilliam's 2018 Single Vineyard Shiraz
RIVERINA GI SHOW RESULTS	
Best Riverina Dry Red	Dee Vine Estate 2019 Estate Range Shiraz Cabernet
Best Riverina Durif	Calabria's ALDI Venturer 2018 Durif
Most Successful Exhibitor	Calabria Family Wines
AUSTRALIAN ITALIAN VARIETIES WINES AWARDS RESULTS	
Best Italian White Wine	De Bortoli Rutherglen Estate 2019 Fiano
Best Pinot Grigio	De Bortoli La Bossa 2019 Pinot Grigio
Best Italian Red Wine	Calabria Private Bin 2018 Montepulciano
Chief Judges award for 'Most Exciting Wine'	Trimboli Wines Salvatore 2019 Trebbiano
Champion of Show 2019	Calabria Private Bin 2018 Montepulciano
SWEET WINE SHOW RESULTS	
Best Sweet Fruity	Calabria Family Wines 3 Bridges 2017 Semillon
Best Museum Class	De Bortoli Wines 2008 Noble One Botrytis Semillon
TUMBARUMBA WINE SHOW RESULTS	
Best Young White	McWilliam's 2018 Single Vineyard Chardonnay

Carrah Lymer, Executive Officer of Riverina Winemakers Association and the wine show and awards dinner organiser, says "It is a testament to our talented winemakers who can craft a diverse range of styles and varieties of wines, from Italian and Alternative varieties through to high-quality table wines, and our always acclaimed, dessert and fortified



Media Release: 15 September 2019 - for immediate release

Riverina Winemakers Association: Inaugural 'Riverina Legend' award announced and local success celebrated at the 2019 Wine Show Awards Dinner

wines. The Riverina GI show celebrates wines made from local fruit and highlights the partnerships between grower and winemaker in producing high-quality regional wines such as Durif. I also love seeing our local wineries have success in the Italian varieties wine awards. Our climate is suitable to Mediterranean grape varieties such as Pinot Grigio and Montepulciano, which are fast becoming more popular with consumers, and our region is producing exceptional examples of them.”

The judging for the wine show was held from Monday 2nd September through to late Wednesday 4th September, where 18 judges worked tirelessly tasting and scoring over 800 wine entries. The judging panels, headed up by Gabrielle Poy, had a great mix of winemakers, sommeliers, and buyers, offering a diverse mix of people from across Australia and locally. The six different wine shows (listed below). wines

- Open Show
- Riverina Region Wine Show
- Sweet Wine Challenge
- Hilltops Wine Show (results not released until 20th September 2019, in Young NSW)
- Tumbarumba Wine Show
- Australian Italian Varieties Wine Awards

- ENDS -

RIVERINA REGION

The Riverina region has been making wines for over 100 years. With a proud history of pioneers and immigrants who saw the potential in the rich red earth, Murrumbidgee irrigation scheme, and a warm Mediterranean climate. Today, some of our wineries are now in their sixth generation of ownership and still headquarter their operations here in the Riverina.

Our Riverina wineries pride themselves on making wines for all to enjoy from internationally acclaimed botrytis wines, through to interesting regional varietals, great value table wines and delicious barrel-aged fortified wines.

There has been greater focus on the interesting regional varietals produced such as alternate red varietals Durif, Touriga, Petit Verdot, Saint Macaire, Aglianico and Montepulciano, as well as Italian white varietals such as Pinot Grigio, Fiano and Vermentino.

MEDIA CONTACT

Carrah Lymer, Executive Officer, Riverina Winemakers Association
M: 0427 600 151 E: info@riverinawinemakers.com.au

WINNER INTERVIEWS

Les Worland

T: (02) 6961 3068 E: les.worland@casellafamilybrands.com