



Media Release

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Gwyneth Olsen joins elite few as Dux of AWAC

The Australian Wine Research Institute (AWRI) and the Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show (RQWS) announced today that Gwyneth Olsen, Senior Winemaker at McWilliam's Wines was awarded Dux of the November 2012 Advanced Wine Assessment Course and will join the judging panel at the Royal Queensland Wine Show in July this year.

The AWRI's most recent Advanced Wine Assessment Course (AWAC) was held at the Adelaide Showground in Adelaide. Over four challenging days, another 30 participants evaluated a diverse range of more than 320 wines under simulated wine show conditions. Lectures were presented by staff from the AWRI, and contributions were also provided from 12 leading wine show judges, journalists and winemakers.

Coordinator of the AWAC, the AWRI's Mr Con Simos said he had seen many aspiring judges over the years and believed there were two distinct 'types' of judges.

"The first is the group who rate wines in a very consistent manner although could be more 'expressive' when discussing a wine," he said.

"The second is the group that can be verbally bold, articulate and extrovert, although lack the reliability of the first group.

"The Dux prize seeks to identify and acknowledge those candidates who have strengths in both areas.

"In my view, Gwyneth is one of those individuals who has both and deserves the opportunity to be fast tracked into the national wine show system."

Gwyneth Olsen will have the opportunity to do just that next month as an Associate Judge at the 2013 RQWS which kicks off in Brisbane on 1 July 2013.

Chief Wine Judge, PJ Charteris, said since 1876 winemakers from across Australia had entered the esteemed RQWS.

“As one of Australia's oldest, most prestigious and highly contested wine shows, the RQWS plays an important role in supporting quality development of Australian wines,” he said.

“Gwyn is a worthy recipient of Dux of AWAC and we are very fortunate to have her expertise and skills on the judging panel.”

Gwyneth Olsen is the Senior Winemaker at McWilliam’s Wines working across its essence, Mount Pleasant and lower alcohol ranges. She holds a BSc in Biochemistry and a post-graduate degree in Oenology from the University of Adelaide. She has also undertaken vintages in France and New Zealand, and is looking forward to furthering her career as a wine judge, having judged at a number of wine shows across Australia.

“The AWAC taught me a great deal, enabling me to strengthen my wine tasting and wine judging skills,” Ms Olsen said.

“I am absolutely delighted with the award and looking forward to gaining further wine show judging experience at the upcoming RQWS.

“I sincerely thank McWilliam's Wines, the AWRI and the RQWS for the opportunity to participate.”

About the AWRI Advanced Wine Assessment Course (AWAC)

The delivery of the elite AWRI Advanced Wine Assessment Course continues to be an important career development opportunity for those who wish to strengthen their knowledge in wine show judging and improve or benchmark their sensory skills. Over 960 participants have completed the program since 1992. Enquiries about the course can be made to Virginia Phillips (e: virginia.phillips@awri.com.au).

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Gwyn Olsen in action at the Advanced Wine Assessment Course