



The Australian Wine Research Institute



## Media Release

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### **Toby Barlow takes top honours at AWAC 2012**

The Australian Wine Research Institute and the Royal Adelaide Wine Show announced today that Toby Barlow, Senior Winemaker at St Hallett, was awarded Dux of the 2012 Advanced Wine Assessment Course.

The AWRI's 2012 Advanced Wine Assessment Course (AWAC) was held recently at the Adelaide Showground in Adelaide, 5-8 June. 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.

"Dux is awarded to the AWAC participant who is, statistically, the most highly reliable, consistent taster and who possesses the ability to clearly articulate with confidence the attributes and quality of wines tasted." said AWAC coordinator, Con Simos. "Toby Barlow is a worthy recipient of the award of Dux."

The Dux of the AWAC is offered a position as an Associate Judge at the next Royal Adelaide Wine Show. Sue Hodder, Chair of Judges of the Royal Adelaide Wine Show said, "The wine show system supports the continued development of quality Australian wine. Therefore, it is essential that show judges are well trained and skilled wine assessors. The Royal Adelaide Wine Show supports the development of quality assessors and we are delighted to accept Toby as an Associate Judge for the next show."

Toby completed an undergraduate degree in Philosophy before he discovered a passion for wine whilst planting a vineyard in the Strathbogie Ranges in 1996. He has since acquired a Graduate Diploma in Oenology from Adelaide University and has completed vintages in France, USA, New Zealand, Hunter Valley and North East Victoria. Toby was winemaker at Mitchelton for seven years before moving to St Hallett in the Barossa in 2007.

“The AWAC is a rare opportunity in a competitive industry to solely focus on wine assessment technique and building understanding of wine quality differentials that influence judging. The course has certainly positively impacted my tasting style in the winery tasting lab,” said Toby. “One of the most valuable lessons was to focus on being present with the wine in the glass whilst constantly cognisant of the factors that could be affecting your perception at the point of tasting.”

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 930 participants have completed the program since 1992. Enquiries about the course can be made to Virginia Phillips (e: [virginia.phillips@awri.com.au](mailto:virginia.phillips@awri.com.au)).



**Toby Barlow, Senior Winemaker/Site Manager, St Hallett Wines**