



The Australian Wine Research Institute



Media Release

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Long Gully winemaker takes AWAC top honours

The Australian Wine Research Institute and the Royal Adelaide Wine Show announced today that Han Tao Lau, Winemaker at Long Gully Estate, was awarded Dux of the 2011 Advanced Wine Assessment Course.

The AWRI's 2011 Advanced Wine Assessment Course (AWAC) was held recently at Magill Estate Winery in Adelaide on 21-24 June. Over four challenging days, another 30 participants evaluated a diverse range of more than 316 wines under simulated wine show conditions. Lectures were presented by staff from the AWRI, and contributions were also provided from 14 leading wine show judges, journalists and winemakers.

"This award recognises that Han is, statistically, a highly reliable, consistent taster and he demonstrated that he is also confident and articulate when explaining the wines he judged." said AWAC coordinator, Con Simos. "Based on my experience with running the course, over a number of years, we seldom see participants that have both of these two very different attributes."

The Dux of the AWAC is offered a position as an Associate Judge at the next Royal Adelaide Wine Show. Brian Walsh, Chairman 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 the 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 Han as an associate judge for the next show."

Han was born and raised in Hong Kong and moved to Australia in 2002 to pursue studies and a career in wine, graduating from both the Graduate Diploma in Wine Business and the Graduate Diploma Oenology programs at the University of Adelaide. He has worked vintages in France and Germany and has been based in the Yarra Valley since 2005, where he is the winemaker for Long Gully Estate as well as his own label called Chuan.

“The AWAC was invaluable in that it has crystallised in my mind the value of Australia's wine show system,” said Han. “It has given me a much better understanding of the quality parameters by which wines are judged in shows, and how these qualities will improve the ‘breed’ of Australian wines. It has given me more focus in the way in which I assess wines every day at work, and I'm sure this will help lift the quality of the wines that I make from now on.”

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. Nearly 900 participants have completed the program since 1992. Enquiries about the course can be made to Virginia Phillips (e: virginia.phillips@awri.com.au).



Han Tao Lau participating at the AWRI's Advanced Wine Assessment Course