



**MEDIA RELEASE: 28 SEPTEMBER 2011**

## A doubly testing time for judges at 31st Sydney International Wine Competition

When the judging panel meets next month to assess the 2000-plus entries in the 2012 Sydney International Wine Competition, it certainly won't end their palates' formal commitment to proceedings.

The 14 judges, including six MWs, will also have to work for their supper at their own farewell dinner on Friday 21 October, when they will speak about 16 wines served blind with five degustation courses at the Sydney Airport Mercure Hotel.

The wines have been selected by the competition's director, Warren Mason, from his stock of current and previous trophy and TOP 100 Award winners, and he is confident that they will provide not just great drinking but also a testing time for the judges.

The public is welcome to attend the dinner and make their own assessment of the 16 wines, which will be served in brackets of three with each course, plus a sparkling wine on arrival. Cost is \$185 per head (\$175 for tables of 6-8) and tickets can be purchased online at [www.top100wines.com](http://www.top100wines.com).

The judges for the 2012 SIWC are Kym Milne MW (SA, chief judge), Meg Brodtmann MW (VIC), Ken Dobler (NSW), Peter Forrestal (WA), Rob Geddes MW (NSW), Warren Gibson (NZ), Neil Hadley MW (NSW), Xenia Irwin MW (UK), Brent Marris (NZ), Oliver Masters (NZ), Mark Robertson (SA), Navneet Singh (SA) and Martin Williams MW (VIC). Reserve judge is Sharon Wild (NSW).

Results of the competition will be officially announced at the presentation banquet on 25 February next year.

Interest in the 31st annual Sydney International Wine Competition quickly resulted in entries reaching the 2000 cap introduced to keep the strain on judges' palates to an acceptable level.

The competition is unique in that wines are divided into classes based on palate weight and ultimately assessed alongside appropriate food.

"This means that lighter-bodied wines aren't blown out of the water by blockbusters and also makes the show a much more relevant one for consumers," said Warren.

For further information on the Sydney International Wine Competition, please contact Warren Mason on +61 (0)2 4757 4400 or visit [www.top100wines.com](http://www.top100wines.com).

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