



SYDNEY ROYAL WINE SHOW

Celebrating 200 Years



2026 MEDIA KIT

Key Facts: The Sydney Royal Wine Show at a Glance

Founded: 1826 – Australia's oldest and most prestigious wine competition

Location: originally Moore Park, now Sydney Showground, Sydney Olympic Park

Entries open: 22nd April 2026

Entries close: 20 May 2026

Judging dates: July 27–30, 2026

Organiser: Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

Classes judged: 55 classes, including sparkling, red, white, rosé, fortified, no and low alcohol

Winners announced - trade: August 2026

Winners showcased - consumer: The Grape, Grain & Graze Festival September 2026

Enter the 2026 Sydney Royal Wine Show:
www.rasnsw.com.au/wine





About the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

Founded in 1822, the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW exists to shape the future of sustainable Australian agriculture. As a not-for-profit organisation, the RAS supports rural and regional communities and advances agri-business and agri-technology, ensuring prosperity, sustainability and stronger connections between urban and rural Australia.

The RAS invests over \$11 million annually across competitions and programs supporting sustainable agricultural development. Through the [RAS Foundation](#), it has distributed over 470 scholarships and more than 110 community grants to rural and regional communities across NSW.

Media Library

[Click here](#) to access the media library including logos and images.

Our Key People – 2026 Sydney Royal Wine Show



Angus Barnes
Sydney Royal Wine
Committee Chair

Born and bred in the Hunter Valley, Angus Barnes is a skilled senior wine industry executive. He has been a member of the RAS Wine Committee since 2019, currently Chair of the Wine, Beer and Spirits Committee. His experience includes National Chairman of Wine Communicators Australia, Executive Officer of the NSW Wine Industry Association, Global Brand Communications & Heritage Director with Pernod Ricard Winemakers. He is currently General Manager of Bunnamagoo Wines. In 2025, Angus was awarded The Real Review's Len Evans Award for outstanding service to the Australian Wine Industry.



Mike De Iuliis
Sydney Royal Wine Show
Chair of Judges

Mike De Iuliis is more than a winemaker; he's a cornerstone of the Australian wine industry, driven by a profound passion for his craft and a deep commitment to the Hunter Valley. He holds a Bachelor of Science from Macquarie University, and then honed his skills with postgraduate studies in Oenology at Roseworthy Campus. In 2002 Mike launched his own label, De Iuliis Wines and was selected as a Scholar for the prestigious Len Evans Tutorial in 2004, where he is now a Tutor. Mike was appointed Chair of Judges of the Sydney Royal in 2025.



Sally Evans
Sydney Royal Wine
Committee Member

Sally Evans' appointment to the RAS Board follows 12 years serving as a Councillor as well as a term as Chair of the RAS Wine Committee. Sally holds a Master of Business Administration from Cranfield University, UK, and has served as Chair of Len Evans Tutorial Inc/ Len Evans Foundation Ltd. Sally was awarded the prestigious 2024 WCA Legend of the Vine and 2024 Graham Gregory Award, recognising her exceptional leadership, service and impact on the New South Wales wine industry.



Lyndey Milan OAM
Sydney Royal Wine
Committee Member

A Councillor of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW, Lyndey was the first female Vice-President, inaugurated the Sydney Royal Fine Food Show, and has been instrumental in the growth of the Sydney Royal Wine, Dairy and Fine Food competitions.

Lyndey is driven by a belief that food, wine and culture create meaningful connection. Through her events, television work, industry consulting and advocacy - along with her longstanding support of Regional Australia - she helps people experience connection, nourishment and inspiration through the universality of food.

2026 International Judge

One of the distinctive features of Sydney Royal Wine Show is the involvement of an International Judge. Their role is to bring an independent, globally informed perspective to Australian wine. They assess the wines alongside the Australian judging panels and are also invited to award a special prize for the wine that impressed them most. RAS Committee records show that even as early as 1955, the Wine Committee Director requested the President of the Wine Institute of California to send a judge for the competition. A fabulous way for sharing our wine stories with the world!

The practice reflects how seriously the Sydney Royal Wine Show takes its global standing. Australian wine is sold and enjoyed in wine markets across the world, and an international expert ensures that Australian wines are assessed not just against a domestic standard, but also against the expectations of the world's most discerning wine cultures. We are thrilled to have Matthew Jukes join the panel of judges for the second time in 2026, previously judging in 2006.



Matthew Jukes
2026 International Judge

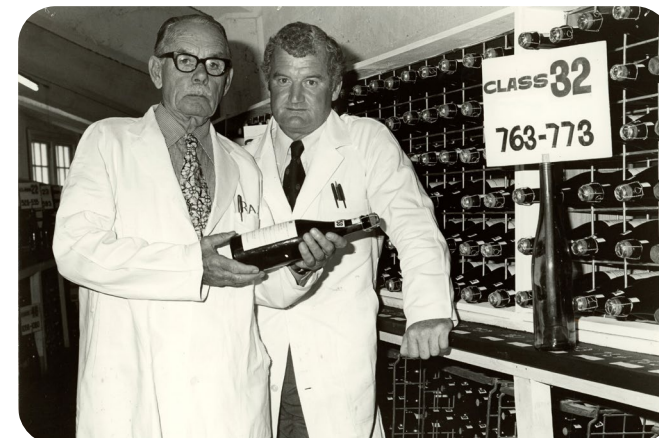
Matthew Jukes has worked in the international wine business for 40 years. He has worked extensively in TV and radio, presenting a wine series on Channel 4 and contributing to the BBC for four years on a weekly wine show. He has written a highly acclaimed weekly article for MoneyWeek for over two decades, served as the Daily Mail's weekly wine columnist for 22 years, and has penned over 2,000 articles in the UK national press. He has been a restaurant consultant for 35 years, writing wine lists worldwide. Matthew is a past recipient of the highly prestigious honour, 'International Wine Communicator of the Year'. In addition, he has published fourteen wine books, selling over 1 million copies.

Nowadays, he concentrates on five in-depth, annual Reports - Bordeaux En Primeur, Burgundy En Primeur, Piemonte, The Finest Fifty and 100 Best Australian Wines, all published on his website. His expertise in Australian wine led to him being named Honorary Australian of the Year by the Australia Day Foundation in 2012. He joined an eminent list of Honorary Australians, including Lord Carrington, Baroness Greenfield and Sir David Attenborough. Matthew is also the founder and CEO of Jukes Cordialities, which in 2025 won three trophies, including 'World Alcohol-Free Awards Producer of the Year'.

Chair of Judges

The Chair of Judges have all played a pivotal role in ensuring the relevance of the show, keeping up with stylistic changes and ensuring that the next generation are brought into system.

PERIOD	CHAIR OF JUDGES	WINE CONNECTION
2025-2027	Michael (Mike) De Iuliis	De Iuliis Wines, Hunter Valley
2022-2024	Sarah Crowe	Yarra Yering, Yarra Valley
2018-2021	PJ Charteris (no show held in 2020)	Charteris Wines, Hunter Valley
2015-2017	Samantha Connew	Stargazer Wines, Tasmania
2009-2014	Iain Riggs AM	Brokenwood Wines, Hunter Valley
2006-2008	James Halliday AM	Halliday Wine Companion
2001-2005	Brian Croser AO	Formerly Petaluma, now Tapanappa
1978-2000	Len Evans AO OBE	
1967-1977	George Fairbrother	



The Sydney Royal Wine Show in Numbers

**19,938
wines**

were entered from 2015 to 2025
(the 2020 competition was not
held due to COVID-19)

**Over 15,000
glasses**

were poured to a panel of 31
judges in 2025 Sydney Royal
Wine Show

**101
people**

make each show happen
from stewards to judges and
administration staff

**Almost 2,000
wines**

entered each year,
55 classes of wine.

**Over 1,000
wine lovers**

taste the medal-winning wines at
the Grape, Grain & Graze
Festival each September

\$275,000

has been invested to support
63 scholars

Investing Back in People – Wine Scholarship Program

“One of the things I am most proud of is our ability to generate a pool of funding that goes directly back into the industry through the RAS Foundation. Last year alone we awarded nine scholarships across viticulture and winemaking — investing in the next generation of wine industry talent. What makes it truly special is that many of our judges today are past scholarship recipients. It is a game changer for so many people.” **Angus Barnes, Chair Wine Committee, Sydney Royal Wine Show**

What an Entry into the Sydney Royal Wine Show Supports

- **Independent expert assessment.** Producers have their wine evaluated by a panel of five industry experts, tasting blind, against the 100-point standard.
- **Confidential written feedback** - Individual judges' notes on every exhibit, regardless of result, to use in the vineyard and winery.
- Ability to showcase and sell wine at the Medal Winner Stands at the **Sydney Royal Easter Show**. The Sydney Royal Easter Show is Australia's largest ticketed event with over 800,000 people through the show each year, the ability to pour your wines and sell to a wine-loving audience.
- **Sydney Royal 200: The Wine Show Conversation Symposium** — discounted tickets for producers entering the 2026 show receive discounted tickets to the 31 July wine industry symposium, held at Sydney Showground following wine show judging.
- **Medal artwork and marketing support** - Award-winning wines receive the Sydney Royal medal artwork, a marketing kit, listing on Australia's Best Producers and exposure through RAS promotional channels.
- **Access to Grape, Grain & Graze Festival**- Medal-winning producers have their wines showcased to over 1000 consumers and trade at the September festival.
- **Contribution to the scholarship fund.** Excess stock proceeds fund the Sydney Royal Wine Scholarships, which have supported over 63 Australian wine professionals. \$275,000 has been awarded in scholarships since they began in 2013.
- **Support for tertiary education.** Excess judging stock is donated to Australian universities and TAFEs, used with scoring data to recreate judging panels in classrooms.
- **Pathway to the President's Medal** - Champion wines are eligible for the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW's President's Medal, which assesses social, environmental and commercial integrity alongside product quality.



Getting the Wine Infront of Consumers – Grape, Grain and Graze Festival

Grape, Grain & Graze is the public festival held each September at Sydney Showground where medal-winning producers from the Sydney Royal Wine Show have their wines showcased to consumers. Every medal-winning wine is available for tasting, alongside award-winning beer, cider and spirits, matched with food and live music, in front of an audience of over 1000 consumers.

www.rasnsw.com.au/events/grape-grain-graze

Some Further Background Reading



200 Years of the
Sydney Royal Wine Show

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History of the
Sydney Royal Wine Show

[READ NOW >](#)



How the Sydney Royal has given
back to industry

[READ NOW >](#)



200 Years of Stories

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What is a wine show and medals
explained

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