



‘AUSTRALIA’S BEST WINE LIST FOR 2017’

Jonah’s, Whale Beach, NSW

2017 WINNER – AUSTRALIA’S WINE LIST OF THE YEAR

EMBARGOED UNTIL - Monday 31 July, 2017, 6pm – Australia’s Wine List of the Year Awards in partnership with **Gourmet Traveller WINE** and the Australian Liquor Industry’s **the drinks Association** today announced **Jonah’s, Whale Beach, NSW** as winner of the prestigious **Australia's Wine List of the Year for 2017**.

*“Persistence has certainly paid off for the sommeliers at Jonah's with their win in the **2017 Australia's Wine List of the Year**. Over the past few years, Jonah's has refined a massive cellar into an approachable list which offers a diverse range of Australia's best with classy wines from all corners of the globe. Their focus at home and abroad is on offering depth from classic wine regions while not neglecting emerging regions and cutting-edge producers. Jonah's offers an amazing array of wines by the glass, rieslings to satisfy the fussiest palate, verticals to amaze... And there's those spectacular views of Whale Beach for the quiet moments.”* commented **Chairman of Judges, Peter Forrestal**.

As the **Sommeliers Responsible for the Winning List, Niels Sluiman** and **Christian Baepler** also receive the **Judy Hirst Award**, presented in memory of the inspirational woman who helped found and establish these awards.

“Australia's Wine List of the Year continues to play its part in transforming the dining scene in this country. The use of Coravin plus added support from wineries has dramatically increased the possibilities of wines by the glass, so that this award is one of the most hotly contested in the annual awards. The interest of consumers in regionality has prompted awards acknowledging the Best Listing of the wines of each state. This interest can also be seen in the emergence of a greater number of smaller (often regionally-based) lists of impressive quality. The Awards continue to focus attention on the best lists around a country that has a vibrant wine scene.” added **Peter Forrestal**.

Tucker Seabrook established Australia’s Wine List of the Year Awards in 1994 to recognise and reward the enormous investment by owners in time, skill and resources that go into developing the best quality wine lists and to also recognise and reward the dedicated and talented sommeliers creating those lists for Australia’s restaurants, hotels, clubs, wine bars, pubs, cafes and brasseries – large and small. To maintain the absolute integrity and independence of the Awards – plus add a global perspective, an outstanding panel of local and international expert judges has been assembled over the years.

Headed by **Chairman**, leading wine writer and commentator **Peter Forrestal**, and **Deputy Chairs** – **Jeni Port** and **Toni Paterson MW**, the long-term panel of over thirty (30) includes internationally respected Master Sommeliers and Masters of Wine such as **Brian Julyan MS**, founder of The Court of Master Sommeliers and CEO Europe, past World’s Best Sommelier - **Gerard Basset OBE, MS, MW, MBA**, **Bob Campbell MW** and **Cameron Douglas MS**, **James Lawther MW**, **Andrew Caillard MW**, plus leading wine writers and

commentators **Mike Bennie, Peter Bourne, Jane Faulkner, Ray Jordan, Tony Love, Louise Radman and Nick Stock** to name but a few. The depth of local and industry knowledge is complemented by the inclusion as judges of the **President of Sommeliers Australia – David Lawler**, and the **previous year's winner of the Wine List of the Year and the Judy Hirst Award – Grant Dickson**.

The sophistication of the Australian wining and dining scene continues to grow and is reflected in this year's results with again a record number of clubs, pubs, hotels and wine bars achieving the highest levels - either a two or three glass rating. The growth in participation over recent years of the nation's Hotels, Pubs and Wine Bars is also good to see.

Australia's Wine List of the Year Awards founder Rob Hirst, thanked sincerely Award Partners – **Gourmet Traveller WINE** and the **drinks Association** and all Sponsors for their on-going support of the Awards and congratulated all entrants on the quality of this year's lists - commenting that *"The most popular award category this year remains **Best Wine By the Glass** – the perfect vehicle for introducing premium wines to the consumer, followed again by **Best Matching of Food and Wine** – reflecting again the ever closer liaison now occurring between sommeliers and chefs. These categories were closely followed in popularity this year by **Best Listing of a Regions Wines** and **Best Listing of Australian Wines** – again pointers to the increased awareness and appreciation of the regionality of all wine – with both the trade and the consumer, and the special nature of what Australian wine now has to offer."*

"It's always a joy to visit a bar or restaurant that gets wine service right. A place where all the vintages on a well-thought out list are served in quality stemware, and at the correct temperature," **said Judy Sarris, Editor of Gourmet Traveller WINE.**

*"To encourage and celebrate excellence we relish the opportunity to acknowledge this country's finest sommeliers through our partnership with Australia's Wine List of the Year Awards. Bravo to all who won top gongs and are showcased in the latest issue of **Gourmet Traveller WINE** - as well the many who achieved glass ratings and are there for the world to see on our digital platforms."*

"drinks trade magazine is proud to be the Trade Communications Partner for AWLOTYA," **said Sandra Przibilla, CEO of the drinks association, publisher of drinks trade.** *"It has been rewarding to see AWLOTYA evolve and grow over the past 23 years. These prestigious awards not only pay tribute to the achievements of the drinks trade, but encourage them to continue developing their skills. We believe the more educated and informed the trade is, the better quality service and experience they can provide to their customers. Congratulations to all the winning venues, we look forward to celebrating and promoting your achievements in our digital and print publications."*

Winners will be listed at winelistoftheyear.com.au and at gourmettravellerwine.com on July 31st and via Aug/Sept 2017 **Gourmet Traveller WINE magazine – on sale August 2nd. Full results and entrant reviews will be available via the **Gourmet Traveller WINE** digital edition at gourmettravellerwine.com and at winelistoftheyear.com.au.**

FULL LIST OF WINNERS BELOW –

FOR INTERVIEWS AND FURTHER INFORMATION, PLUS PICTURES PLEASE CONTACT –

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AUSTRALIA'S WINE LIST OF THE YEAR AWARDS – 2017

In Partnership with Gourmet Traveller WINE and the drinks Association

NATIONAL WINNER OF THE 2017 AUSTRALIA'S WINE LIST OF THE YEAR:

Jonah's, Whale Beach, NSW

AWARD WINNERS

WINE LIST OF THE YEAR

JUDY HIRST AWARD

Jonah's, NSW

Niels Sluiman & Christian Baepler

STATE/TERRITORY WINNERS

BEST WINE LIST ACT

BEST WINE LIST NSW

BEST WINE LIST NT

BEST WINE LIST QLD

BEST WINE LIST SA

BEST WINE LIST TAS

BEST WINE LIST VIC

BEST WINE LIST WA

Pialligo Estate

Jonah's

Stone House

Blackbird

Barn Steakhouse

Stillwater

The Botanical

Il Lido

NATIONAL CLASS OF TRADE OR CATEGORY

BEST CITY RESTAURANT WINE LIST

BEST COUNTRY RESTAURANT WINE LIST

BEST HOTEL RESTAURANT WINE LIST

BEST PUB RESTAURANT WINE LIST

BEST CLUB RESTAURANT WINE LIST

BEST WINE BAR LIST

BEST NEW LIST – THE TONY HITCHIN AWARD

BEST SMALL LIST (MAX 50 WINES)

BEST SMALL LIST (MAX 100 WINES)

BEST FOOD & WINE MATCHING LIST

BEST LIST OF WINE BY THE GLASS

BEST BEER LIST

BEST NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINKS LIST

BEST SPARKLING WINE LIST

BEST CHAMPAGNE LIST

BEST APERITIF LIST

BEST DIGESTIF LIST

BEST LISTING OF A REGION'S WINE

Aria, Brisbane

Appellation, SA

Jonah's, NSW

Upstairs, The Lord Nelson, NSW

The Queen's Club, NSW

Love, Tilly Devine, NSW

Stokehouse, St Kilda, VIC

Harvest, NSW

Chiswick, Woollahra, NSW

Aubergine, ACT

Cru Bar + Cellar, QLD

Charred Kitchen & Bar, NSW

Momofuku Seiobo, NSW

Aria, Sydney, NSW

est., NSW

Rockpool Bar & Grill, Sydney, NSW

Bentley Restaurant + Bar, NSW

Healesville Hotel, VIC

BEST LISTING OF AUSTRALIAN WINES	Café Sydney, NSW
BEST LISTING OF ACT WINES	Aubergine, ACT
BEST LISTING OF NSW WINES	Biota Dining, NSW
BEST LISTING OF QLD WINES	Aria, Brisbane, QLD
BEST LISTING OF SA WINES	Hardy's Verandah, SA
BEST LISTING OF TAS WINES	The Source, TAS
BEST LISTING OF VIC WINES	Lake House, VIC
BEST LISTING OF WA WINES	Settlers Tavern, WA
GOURMET TRAVELLER WINE READERS' CHOICE	Annata, NSW

HALL OF FAME

2017 HALL OF FAME - PREVIOUS NATIONAL WINNERS

fermentAsian, Tanunda, SA (2016)
 Bentley Restaurant + Bar, Sydney, NSW (2015)
 Lake House, Daylesford, VIC (2014)
 Rockpool Bar & Grill, Perth, WA (2014)
 Royal Mail Hotel, Dunkeld, VIC (2012)
 Pilu at Freshwater, NSW (2011)
 Rockpool Bar & Grill, Melbourne, VIC (2010)
 Rockpool Bar & Grill, Sydney, NSW (2009)
 Aria, Sydney, NSW (2003)
 Syracuse, Melbourne, VIC (1999)

2017 HALL OF FAME - PREVIOUS NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL AWARD WINNER

Franck Moreau MS (2014)

2017 HALL OF FAME - PREVIOUS THREE TIME WINNERS – STATES/TERRITORIES

Apothecary 1878 (Best SA) 2004, 2011, 2012
 Appellation (Best SA) 2008, 2009, 2010
 Aria, Brisbane (Best QLD) 2011, 2013, 2014
 Aubergine (Best ACT) 2013, 2014, 2015
 Char (Best NT) 2012, 2013, 2014
 Cru Bar & Cellar (Best Qld) 2004, 2009, 2015
 fermentAsian (Best SA) 2014, 2015, 2016
 Friends (Best WA) 1999, 2002, 2003
 Me Wah (Best TAS) 2010, 2011, 2012
 Rockpool Bar & Grill (Best WA) 2011, 2012, 2014
 Rubicon (Best ACT) 2011, 2012, 2016
 The Source at MONA (Best TAS) 2013, 2014, 2015

2017 HALL OF FAME - PREVIOUS THREE TIME WINNERS – NATIONAL CLASS OF TRADE OR CATEGORY

Aria, Sydney (Gourmet Traveller WINE – Readers' Choice Award) 2011, 2012, 2013
 The Botanical (Best Pub Restaurant List) 2012, 2013, 2014
 The European (Best Café List) 2010, 2011, 2012
 fermentAsian (Best Country Restaurant List) 2014, 2015, 2016
 Glass Brasserie (Best International Hotel List) 2008, 2009, 2010
 Healesville Hotel (Best Pub Restaurant List) 2003, 2004, 2008
 Healesville Hotel (Best Beer List) 2011, 2012, 2013
 Lake House (Best Country Restaurant List) 2008, 2010, 2013
 Melbourne Supper Club (Best Wine Bar List) 2004, 2011, 2012
 Merricote (Best Small List: 50) 2014, 2015, 2016
 RACV City Club (Best Club Restaurant List) 2013, 2014, 2015
 Royal Mail Hotel (Best Country Restaurant List) 2009, 2011, 2012
 Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron (Best Club Restaurant List) 2003, 2004, 2008
 Settlers Tavern (Best Pub Restaurant List) 2009, 2010, 2011
 Spice Temple, Melbourne (Best Small List: 100) 2013, 2015, 2016