



Chief of Judges Report from Corrina Wright - 2024 Riverland Wine Show

Welcome dignitaries, sponsors & welcome to all the most important people in the room- the exhibitors!

My humble team of judges are here solely to serve you after all and we offer, with respect, comments on all the wines that you entrusted to us a couple of weeks ago. During these difficult times in the wine community, which I know is being acutely felt in this region, it was great to be able to visit and remind ourselves of the important contribution all our wine regions make to the fabric of great Australian wine.

This year, we really got excited again by some of the alternative varieties- Fiano seems to be leading the charge here, but we also loved vermentino, chenin, pinot gris in the whites and Monte, Touriga and Tempranillo in the reds. We are very buoyed by what you are doing in this space. Understand that this may be a much smaller proportion of what you grow up here, but still think that the sky is the limit. That's not to say that the traditional chardonnay and shiraz were forgotten, even though it may feel this way at the moment. Some very solid wines. Not to mention the incredible fortifies, sweets and brandy's- what a treasure trove.

For my chief judge's trophy, I really enjoyed a delicious Riesling- it surprised me with its super varietal lift and moreish palate. Congratulations to the grower & winemaker for an excellent wine.

We showed our love by awarding around 10% gold 16% silver and 38% bronze medals this year.

Thank you all for entering your wines, thank you to the committee and the volunteers for looking after us so well (the scones, jam & cream for morning tea, and the Turkish delights that Barry buys us always score 100 points from me!) Thankyou to my fellow judges for the great spirit & camaraderie in which they undertook the judging.

Our hearty congratulations to the trophy and medal winners. While there may be some tough times coming up in the wine community, we are a resilient gang and hopefully we will see you all on the other side. I commend our 2024 Riverland wine show results to you all.

Thank you & enjoy the community building celebrations this evening, get around each other and take care of yourselves.