ROYAL NATIONAL CAPITAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
2026 Canberra and Region Wine Show

Patron:	ACT Chief Minister Mr Andrew Barr MLA
President:	Toni Rolls
CEO:	Adelina La Vita

WINE SHOW COMMITTEE

Chair:	Andrew Price
Members:	Leonie Keal
	Chrissy Smith
	Michael Pentony
	Chris Loveless
Chair of Judges:	Gwyn Olsen

KEY INFORMATION

Entry Fee	$50.00 per entry (GST incl.)
Entries open	11 September 2026
Entries close	23 October 2026
Late entries close	29 October 2026
Late entry fee	$10.00
Online entries to:	https://wineshow.awri.com.au/2026-canberra-and-region-wine-show
Bottle delivery by	29 October 2026
Bottle delivery to	Canberra and Region Wine Section Royal National Capital Agricultural Society Building D EPIC Flemington Road MITCHELL ACT 2911
Judging	4-6 November 2026
Trophy Presentation	13 November 2026

Welcome to the 2026 Canberra and Region Wine Show. The Royal National Capital Agricultural Society (RNCAS) is proud to present the Show and thanks all sponsors and exhibitors for their ongoing support

The Canberra and Region Wine Show provides an opportunity for exhibitors from the regional area to benchmark and promote their wines. Eligible wines for inclusion in the Show are those from wineries in the Canberra and southern NSW Zones, all Shoalhaven and Southern Highlands regions of the South Coast zone, these areas being as set out in accordance with the Geographical Indicators Committee.

The Show is a qualifying show for The National Wine Show of Australia. Information on the entry requirements for The National Wine Show is available on the RNCAS website at www.rncas.org.au

Included in the Schedule are the Regulations for the Show. Please take the time to read the Regulations to ensure your exhibits meet the entry criteria and qualify for judging. Exhibits that do not comply with the Regulations may be disqualified.

Please note the following number of bottles must be submitted for each exhibit:

Classes 1 –20	**6 x 750ml (or equivalent volume)**
Classes 21 – 22	**2 x 750 ml bottles for each vintage, with a total of 6 x 750ml bottles for the entry (or equivalent volume)**

Additional bottles of any wines awarded trophies and gold medals at the 2026 Show will be required as follows:

Trophy wines – 6 x 750 ml bottles (or equivalent volume)
Gold medal wines – 3 x 750 ml bottles (or equivalent volume)
For further details see Regulation 7

Judging will take place on Wednesday 4, Thursday 5 and Friday 6 November 2026. Exhibitors are invited to the presentation of trophies at The Terrace Restaurant, Exhibition Park, from 5.00pm to 8.00pm on Friday 13 November 2026.

Admittance to the presentation of trophies is by ticket only. Tickets will be sent to exhibitors prior to the presentation. As a general rule, two tickets will be issued per exhibitor, with further requests for tickets being handled on a case by case basis. You will therefore need to contact the RNCAS to confirm your attendance **no later than Monday 9 November 2026**. The RNCAS will invite sponsors and representatives of the wine, restaurant, liquor retail and media industries to the presentation. Exhibitors are requested to contact the RNCAS (by telephoning (02) 6241 2478 or emailing admin@rncas.org.au) to obtain more information and reserve tickets.

A catalogue of results will be available at the presentation and on the RNCAS website.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

OPEN CLASSES
FINISHED AND BOTTLED WINES ONLY
MINIMUM VOLUME OF 10 DOZEN (90 LITRES) APPLIES AT TIME OF ENTRY
VINTAGE AS INDICATED FOR EACH CLASS
750ML OR EQUIVALENT BOTTLED WINES
IN SINGLE VARIETAL CLASSES, EXHIBITS MUST CONTAIN AT LEAST 85% OF THE SPECIFIED VARIETY.
BLENDED WINES CONTAIN LESS THAN 85% OF A SINGLE VARIETY

SPARKLING WINES

1. Sparkling white, pink or red - Vintage or Non Vintage - bottle or tank fermented - variety or blend must be given

WHITE TABLE WINES

2. Pinot Gris or Pinot Grigio – any vintage
3. Riesling - 2026
4. Riesling - 2025 and older
5. Sauvignon Blanc - any vintage
6. Chardonnay - 2026
7. Chardonnay - 2025 and older
8. Other varieties and/or blends - 2026 - variety or blend must be given
9. Other varieties and/or blends - 2025 and older - variety or blend must be given

MEDIUM OR SWEET TABLE WINES

10. Any vintage - variety or blend must be given – minimum 20 grams per litre residual sugar

ROSE TABLE WINES

11. Rose - any vintage - any variety and/or blend - variety or blend must be given

RED TABLE WINES

12. Pinot Noir - any vintage
13. Sangiovese - any vintage
14. Tempranillo - any vintage
15. Shiraz including Shiraz Viognier - 2025 and 2026
16. Shiraz including Shiraz Viognier - 2024 and older
17. Cabernet Sauvignon 2025 and 2026
18. Cabernet Sauvignon 2024 and older
19. Other varieties and/or blends - 2025 and 2026 - variety or blend must be given
20. Other varieties and/or blends - 2024 and older - variety or blend must be given

SPECIAL CLASSES

FINISHED AND BOTTLED WINES ONLY

MINIMUM VOLUME OF 10 DOZEN (90 LITRES) APPLIES AT TIME OF ENTRY FOR CLASSES 21 AND 22

VINTAGE AS INDICATED FOR EACH CLASS

750ML OR EQUIVALENT BOTTLED WINES

WINE OF PROVENANCE

21. Dry white - any variety and/or blend - vintage spread must be 10 or more years (refer to Regulations) - variety or blend must be given
22. Dry red - any variety and/or blend - vintage spread must be 10 or more years (refer to Regulations) - variety or blend must be given

TROPHIES

Best Sparkling Wine
Class 1

Best Pinot Gris or Pinot Grigio
Class 2

Best Canberra District Riesling
Classes 3 and 4

Best Riesling
Classes 3 and 4

Best Sauvignon Blanc
Class 5

Best Chardonnay
Classes 6 and 7

Best Dry White Other Varieties and/or Blends
Classes 8 and 9

Best White Wine of Show
Classes 1 to 10

Best Medium or Sweet Wine
Class 10

Best Rose
Class 11

Best Pinot Noir
Class 12

Best Sangiovese
Class 13

Best Tempranillo
Class 14

Dr Edgar Riek OAM Trophy for the Best Canberra District Shiraz
Classes 15 and 16

Best Shiraz
Classes 15 and 16

Best Cabernet Sauvignon
Classes 17 and 18

Best Dry Red Other Varieties and or Blends
Classes 19 and 20

Best Red Wine of Show
Classes 1 and 10 to 20

Best Hilltops Region Wine
All Classes

Most Successful Exhibitor of Show
All Classes

The Chair of Judges Trophy
All Classes

Wine of Provenance
Classes 21 and 22

Champion Wine of Show
Open Classes

REGULATIONS

1. Definitions

1.1. ***Wine producer*** **–**means a person, including a partnership or body corporate, who in the opinion of the Royal National Capital Agricultural Society (RNCAS) manufactures wine; or has wine manufactured from grapes grown by the person, for sale under the person's name or business name.

1.2. ***Wine and spirit merchant*** means a person, including a partnership or body corporate, who in the opinion of the RNCAS buys wine for resale.

1.3. ***Exhibitor*** – means a wine producer or wine and spirit merchant who enters one or more exhibits in the Show.

1.4. ***Wine of Provenance***, from the French "provenir" meaning "to come from", refers to the chronology of the ownership or location of a historical object. This award is designed to recognise and celebrate vineyards of exceptional provenance reflecting consistency of style and quality over time.

2. Entry Requirements

2.1. An Exhibitor may enter the Show if the exhibit/s comply with the conditions of entry that apply to the class.

2.2. Exhibits for Classes 1-22 must be the product of a minimum 85% of fruit grown in the Southern New South Wales Zone or the Shoalhaven Coast or Southern Highlands Regions of the South Coast Zone of New South Wales (as defined by the GIC of Wine Australia).

2.3. All Exhibitors must have the required volume of stock produced for each exhibit, and the volume on hand for the class/es entered, at the time of entry. This information must be included on the entry form. Records of all subsequent sales, which may reduce the volume of stock detailed on the *Application for Entry* (entry form), should be retained as the RNCAS may seek to inspect stock and sales records prior to the commencement of judging.

2.4. An Exhibitor may enter an exhibit in a class only if the Exhibitor is named on the entry form as the Exhibitor; and is named as the producer or merchant of the exhibit on the commercial label under which the exhibit is, or is to be, sold.

2.5. An exhibit must be entered under its brand name on the entry form, not the Exhibitor name or parent company name.

2.6. The required number of bottles for each exhibit is 750ml or equivalent, as stipulated for each class in this Schedule, must be despatched to the RNCAS prior to judging. **If sufficient volumes are not submitted, the entry may not be judged.**

2.7. Wine show labels will be emailed by the RNCAS to Exhibitors. Exhibitors must print and affix the labels to each exhibit prior to the despatch of exhibits for receipt by the RNCAS before the nominated closing date/s. Judging labels must be placed above the commercial label and not cover the commercial label.

2.8. Geographical Indications (GIs) as per Australian Wine Law must be included on the entry form.

2.9. An exhibit must comply with all applicable and relevant State and Commonwealth laws in relation to the manufacture and labelling of wines, including protected terms and geographical indications.

2.10. Unless stated otherwise in this Schedule, an exhibit must comply with all of the following:

A. Must be a named commercial wine (regardless of whether it is commercially released);
B. Must be commercially labelled or display a label prepared by the Exhibitor providing all information required for entry to the Show including commercial name, vintage, variety, single vineyard name (if applicable);
C. Must include the show exhibit label in the format provided by the RNCAS;
D. If the exhibit is commercially released, it must be commercially labelled;
E. Does not need to be bottled on the day of entry; and
F. Must be from a commercial bottling run and bottled before the exhibit is sent for judging.

2.11. An exhibit must not be entered in more than one class, although may be eligible for one or more trophies. This regulation does not apply to wines entered in Wines of Provenance (Classes 21 and 22)

2.12. The Wine Show Organising Committee (Organising Committee) reserves the right to accept or reject an entry, to question and audit an Exhibitor about entry details, and to transfer an exhibit to a more appropriate class.

2.13. All exhibits become the property of the RNCAS on receipt.

2.14. If an entry is withdrawn for unforeseen reasons, the RNCAS may at its discretion refund the entry fee less any administrative costs incurred in processing the entry. However if an entry is withdrawn for non-compliance with the Show regulations and entry requirements as outlined in this Schedule, the entry fee is not refundable.

2.15. All Exhibitors are required to declare on their entry form/s, that the information regarding each exhibit is true and correct and agree to be bound by all aspects of the Wine Show Entry Regulations.

2.16. All Exhibitors agree, as a condition of entry, to cooperate with the audit procedures and processes as outlined in this Schedule, and to comply with, and abide by, outcomes and consequences of audit findings.

2.17. The Exhibitor acknowledges that:

A. the RNCAS does not have a duty to conduct this Show; and

B. if the RNCAS cancels this Show either partly or fully for any reason, the Exhibitor may not recover any lost income or damages from the RNCAS; and

C. this clause operates as a complete defence for the RNCAS to any action for the recovery of lost income or damages.

2.18. These Regulations must be read in conjunction with other requirements outlined in this Schedule.

2.19. In single varietal classes, exhibits must comprise at least 85% of the specified variety.

2.20. Blended wines comprising at least 85% of a single variety must be entered in a corresponding varietal class.

2.21. Wine of Provenance

2.21.1. An entry constitutes a 'set' of three (3) different vintages of the same wine, covering a minimum vintage spread of 10 years, there is no maximum. The first exhibit must be a 2023 vintage or younger. The second exhibit must be five (5) to nine (9) years older than the first. The third exhibit must be ten (10) years, or more, older than the first.

For example; if wine A is 2023, wine B can be 2014 – 2018, with wine C being 2013 or older.

2.21.2. Only the younger exhibit must comply with the minimum volume requirements.

2.21.3. All exhibits MUST be finished bottled wines.

2.21.4. Each exhibit MUST state the vineyard/wine name and the exhibitor name.

2.21.5. Two (2) x 750ml bottles of each exhibit are to be supplied (total six (6) bottles).

2.21.6. The wines will be poured as a set and judged as such.

2.21.7. Judges will taste and score all three (3) exhibits in each set, resulting in a score for the set, without discussion. After calling scores, discussion and re-tasting will determine the top set.

2.21.8. There WILL be re-pours for corked wines.

2.21.9. No set or individual scores are to be published. The winner will be the "Label" (named vineyard, blend or brand) of the wine and producer, not an individual vintage.

2.21.10. Any wines eligible for entry in the Wine Show can still be entered.

2.21.11. When a wine has won the Provenance award it cannot be entered again for three (3) years.

3. Entries and Judging

3.1. The fee is $50.00 (inclusive of GST) per exhibit for entries received by the closing date and must be paid at the time of entry.

3.2. An entry will not be accepted unless accompanied by the relevant fee.
3.3. Late entries will only be accepted with the approval of the Wine Show Committee.
3.4. An additional fee of $10.00 per exhibit applies to entries received after the closing date and must be paid at the time of entry.
3.5. All entries should be submitted on-line.
3.6. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Organising Committee and must be lodged online.
3.7. Entries can be submitted at https://wineshow.awri.com.au/2026-canberra-and-region-wine-show
3.8. All payments must be made by credit card or direct deposit, following the instructions on the portal.
3.9. All entries are checked prior to acceptance to ensure compliance with Entry Regulations and other applicable entry requirements detailed in this Schedule.
3.10. All exhibits are checked on receipt from Exhibitors to ensure that the wine received for judging is the same as the wine detailed on the entry form.
3.11. Exhibits in each class are randomised and a judging number is applied by the Organising Committee prior to the commencement of judging.
3.12. Each exhibit is assessed by a panel of three Judges, including a Panel Chair, who assesses the exhibit independently of other exhibits in the class.
3.13. Judges are screened from the exhibits and have access to one glass of each exhibit.
3.14. Consistent with ASVO recommendations, the number of exhibits judged each day is restricted to allow adequate time to assess exhibits and avoid palate fatigue.
3.15. Judges are required to assess each exhibit individually and impartially.
3.16. At the conclusion of judging for each class, the panel is convened to assess and discuss individual exhibits, collate scores and agree on the awarding of medals.
3.17. The judging panel may call for re-pours of any wines prior to awarding a score. Stewards prepare and randomise re-poured wines out of sight of Judges.
3.18. The Chair of Judges may split large classes across judging panels. Once the panels have agreed on re-pours, the entire judging team is presented with a randomised set of re-pours and the Judges and Panel Chairs determine the Top Gold exhibit for that class.
3.19. Each exhibit is judged on its merits, with no limit on the number of Gold, Silver or Bronze medals that may be awarded in a class. If more than one Gold medal is awarded in a class, the judging panel may award a Top Gold for the class. The judging panel may decline to make an award in any class.
3.20. The judging panel agrees on a final score for each exhibit out of 100 points. A medal is awarded to an exhibit as follows:

Gold Medal 95-100 points
Silver Medal 90-94 points
Bronze Medal 85-89 points

The Catalogue of Results will publish the points awarded to an exhibit. Exhibitors may obtain scores for all of their exhibits on request to the Organising Committee.

4. Delivery and Exhibit Requirements

4.1. All exhibits must be securely packed to minimise breakage. Replacement exhibits may be requested if there are insufficient bottles for judging as a result of breakages.
4.2. Freight fees must be prepaid and are the responsibility of the exhibitor.
4.3. Exhibits must be delivered during office hours (8.30am to 4.30pm) by the due date specified at the top of the schedule, to the following address:

Canberra & Region Wine Show
Royal National Capital Agricultural Society
Exhibition Park in Canberra
Flemington Road MITCHELL ACT 2911

4.4 The RNCAS will email printable show labels that exhibitors must affix to each bottle. Each exhibit should bear the commercial label under which the exhibit is marketed. The number of bottles that must be submitted for each exhibit is:

A. classes 1 - 20 6 x 750 ml bottles (or equivalent volume)
B. classes 21 - 22 2 x 750 ml bottles for each vintage, with a total of 6 x 750 bottles for the entry (or equivalent volume)

5. Audit Process

5.1 Before the commencement of judging, any exhibit or record relating to an exhibit stated on the entry form, may be inspected and checked by an auditor appointed by the Organising Committee. The audit will be undertaken consistent with the *Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology (ASVO) Audit Procedure Guidelines* and the *2020 Wine Show ASVO Best Practice Recommendations*.

5.2 One or more exhibitors from which entries have been received will be selected for audit. The auditor may inspect the records relating to each exhibit from the selected exhibitors; to determine that at the time of entry, the exhibit complied with the *Entry Regulations* and conditions of entry for the class entered. The auditor may take at least one sample bottle, for comparison with the exhibit at the time of judging.

5.3 Each sample bottle will be assessed for consistency, by the judging panel, at the commencement of judging of the relevant class.

6. Disqualification

6.1 The RNCAS and/or the Organising Committee may disqualify, or dismiss as not eligible for judging, any exhibit that does not comply with any Regulation and/or entry requirements detailed in this Schedule, including if an audit sample is deemed by judges not to be the same wine as the exhibit submitted for judging. A disqualification or dismissal is final, and an Exhibitor may be disqualified from this and any future Show.

6.2 Any exhibit found to be in breach of the *Entry Regulations* and requirements prior to, during, and/or post-judging, will be disqualified.

7 Trophies

7.1. To be awarded a trophy associated with Open Class categories, an exhibit must first receive a minimum of 95 points.

7.2. A trophy will be awarded to the Most Successful Exhibitor of the Show. Points will be allocated as follows: gold medal (5), silver medal (3) and bronze medal (1). An exhibitor must enter a minimum of three classes to be eligible for the trophy; however, there is no limit to the number of wines that a single exhibitor can enter. The exhibitor gaining the highest number of points from up to ten of their best entries will be awarded the trophy.

7.3. The Chairman's Trophy will be awarded in recognition of innovation in wine making.

7.4. To be eligible for trophies associated with a District or GI, only wines comprising of a minimum 85% fruit grown from that locality will be eligible.

8 Obligations of Trophy and Gold Medal Recipients

8.1. Trophies and Gold Medals awarded at the Canberra & Region Wine Show are highly regarded by Exhibitors, retailers, industry representatives and observers, media, sponsors and consumers.

8.2. We therefore seek to promote and support Exhibitors and request their cooperation and assistance to ensure adequate volumes of all Trophy and Gold Medal wines are available for the Show's tastings and promotional events.

8.3. Exhibitors must therefore supply, if requested, additional bottles of each Trophy and Gold Medal winning wine as follows:

Trophy wines – 6 bottles (750ml or equivalent)

Gold medal wines – 3 bottles (750 ml or equivalent)

8.4. Exhibitors will be notified of their obligation to supply wines no later than Monday 9 November 2026. Additional wines must be delivered by **Thursday 12 November 2026** to:

Canberra and Region Wine Show
RNCAS
Exhibition Park in Canberra
Flemington Road
MITCHELL ACT 2911

8.5. In some instances, wines may not arrive in time for the presentation of trophies and exhibitors' tasting; however, these wines will still be required. Failure to provide wines may result in refusal of entries in future shows.

9 Protests

9.1 No protest will be accepted or correspondence entered concerning the results.

10 Publication of Results

10.1 Results remain embargoed and must not be published, disclosed or disseminated, until the announcement of awards at the Trophy Presentation on Friday 13 November 2026. The Catalogue of Results will be placed on the RNCAS website and hard copies will be available at the Trophy Presentation.

11 Advertising of Awards

11.1 An Exhibitor must comply with all applicable legal requirements including the *Wine Industry Display of Awards Code of Practice* and the *Australian Grape and Wine Authority Act 2013* in relation to the display of any medal and/or reference to any award won for an exhibit at the Show. An Exhibitor must not advertise or allow to be advertised by any means, the fact that an exhibit has won an award at this Show unless the advertisement clearly shows:

A. the year of the award; and
B. the name number of the class in which the award was won; and
C. the award that was won; and
D. the correct name and year of the competition, i.e., *2026 Canberra and Region Wine Show.*

11.2 A wine must not be marketed bearing any reference to any award won at the Show unless the wine is the winner of the award. Reference to any award on a label or sticker attached to a bottle must relate to the contents of the bottle.

11.3 Advertising of awards on trophy and medal winning wines, including on wine bottles and in advertisements, may be randomly audited.

11.4 Any identified non-compliances with the *Wine Industry Display of Awards Code of Practice* and the *Australian Grape and Wine Authority Act 2013* will be reported to the relevant authority/ies.