



Event Watch



1: 'Ready, Steady, Shake'

42 BELOW Vodka celebrated its fifth year of 'Ready, Steady, Shake.' A unique and fast-paced cocktail competition, where 36 Bartenders attended Byblos (Brisbane) from all over Brisbane, The Gold Coast and The Sunshine Coast to shake their stuff in a bid to be 'Ready Steady Shake' Champion, 2009! Created at Watt Modern Dining (Brisbane) in 2004, 'Ready Steady Shake' is unique to Brisbane and is designed to challenge bar professionals to think on their feet. Each contender is given the same box of mystery ingredients, a fully stocked bar and five minutes to create their own, signature 42 BELOW cocktail. After hours of mixing and shaking to impress the judging panel the winner of 'Ready Steady Shake 2009' was Tim Sponberg (Chalk Hotel), whose creation of 'The 42nd Degree Martini' won him \$750 and an exclusive 42 BELOW bar kit.

1: Justine Millsome (Glass Bar) 3rd place, Ryan Norieks (The Lark) 2nd place, Tim Sponberg (Chalk) 1st place and Sean Forsyth- Bacardi Lion Brand Ambassador.

2: Grey Goose goes theatrical

GREY GOOSE announced its 12 month sponsorship of The Sydney Theatre Company. The initiative aligns GREY GOOSE with Sydney Theatre Company's other supporters, which include Giorgio Armani (Patron) and Cate Blanchett (Creative Director).

2: Mary Ajaka, Demetrius Giouzelis (Bacardi Lion), Cate Blanchett and Mandy Burke (Bacardi Lion).

3: Legends of the Hunter

The Hunter Valley Wine Industry came together to honour the achievements of their own, at the third annual Hunter Valley Legends and Wine Industry Award, which was held at Wyndham Estate, Dalwood. The evening celebrates and recognises the hard work and dedication by the men and women of the region who are passionate about making the best wines in the country.

This year's Living Legends were Jay Tulloch (Tulloch Wines), Bruce Tyrrell (Tyrrells Vineyards), Phil Ryan (McWilliams Mt Pleasant) and Fay McGuigan formerly of McGuigan Wines. They join past Legends Brian Walsh, Max Drayton, John Tulloch, Karl Stockhausen, Perc McGuigan, Brian McGuigan and the late Max Lake. Other winners on the night included the 2009 Winemaker of the Year: Jim Chatto (Pepper Tree Wines), Rising Star of the Year: Sarah Crowe (Brokenwood Wines), Viticulturist of the Year: Ian Tinkler (Tinklers Vineyard), Cellar Door of the Year (Scarborough Wine Co) and a new award, the 2009 Heritage Award: Uncle Dan's Slab Hut (Tyrrell's Vineyards).

Chairman, Hunter Valley Legends and Wine Industry Awards, Iain Riggs (Brokenwood Wines) said, "We are very fortunate to have so many talented and passionate people who work hard to continue the high standard of winemaking in the region which was set by the Hunter Valley legends & pioneers. The awards ensure we recognise and celebrate those that are at the forefront of the industry and highlight their achievements."

3: Back: Sally Scarborough, Sarah Crowe, Jim Chatto, Ian Tinkler, Ian Scarborough. Front: Jerome Scarborough, Merralea Scarborough.

4: Cowra Regional Wine Awards

The results of the 'Clear Image' Cowra Region Wine Awards 2009 were announced during a five course degustation dinner at Windowrie's, The Mill.

The judging panel, comprising Nick Bulleid MW, Tim Kirk (Clonakilla) and Russell Cody (McWilliams) tasted 95 local wines and commented that whilst Cowra had established its name as a producer of Chardonnay, it was pleasing to see that Cowra Shiraz was performing very well.

"The judges were very supportive of the quality of wines emerging from Cowra," mentioned Tom Ward, President of Cowra Regional Vineyard Association (CRVA). "With many vineyards now over 20 years old, the wines are showing the great depth of flavour that can be achieved from Cowra," said Ward. Best White Wine 2005 or older - Swinging Bridge Cowra Chardonnay 2004, Best Red Wine 2004 and older - Falls Canowindra Shiraz 2002, Best White Wine - Mulyan Cowra Viognier 2007, Best Red Wine Mulyan Block 9 Cowra Shiraz Viognier 2006 and Best Organically Grown Wine - Pig in the House Cowra Shiraz 2006 and Most Successful Exhibitor - Mulyan Wines.

4: Award winners: Paul Heilman (Cowra Wine Shop), Peter Fagan (Mulyan Wines), Marg Wallington (Wallington Wines), Will Ward, (Swinging Bridge), Jason O'Dea (Pig in the House Wines), Jenni Fagan (Mulyan Wines), David Cumming (Define Wine).