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Treasury Brisbane toasts 2021 Queensland wine winner

A Cabernet Sauvignon from Girraween Estate has been toasted as Queensland's best of the Royal Queensland Food & Wine Show (RQFWS), despite a snap lockdown that brought judging to a halt and the cancellation of the Ekka for the second year in a row.

The winning 2019 vintage from the small, family-owned winery in the Granite Belt will now be promoted through a three-month commercial contract with Treasury Brisbane and available to sip at its stunning riverfront bar and dining hotspot, *Will and Flow*.

The (RQFWS) Queensland Wine of the Year is awarded to the winery that makes the best Queensland wine from solely Queensland grown grapes.

Girraween Estate owner and winemaker Steve Messiter said he was honoured to receive the accolade, which went ahead despite lockdown challenges and was looking forward to exposing his now award-winning red to more wine drinkers.

"As a small winery we only make about 10,000 bottles a year and sell most of those through our cellar door," Mr Messiter said.

"We thought the 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon was a great wine, so to be recognised as the best by such experienced wine judges in such difficult circumstances is a thrill and validates all of our hard work.

"It's a medium bodied, fruit-driven wine, with lovely red berry and blackcurrant flavours and I'm excited to have more people try it. I hope everyone that does, loves it," he said.

A three-day lockdown in June interrupted judging at the Brisbane Showgrounds with Australia-wide uncertainty forcing organisers to complete judging of only the Queensland varieties once restrictions lifted.

RNA Chief Executive Brendan Christou said it was wonderful that Queensland producers are being recognised for their excellence as part of the RNA's prestigious RQFWS that showcases and unearths the nation's finest wine, food and beer.

"Our charter is to champion and celebrate the essential role agriculture plays in our everyday lives and recognise the best of the best," he said.

"It's great the public will get to enjoy this award-winning Queensland wine for the next three months together with providing Girraween Estate with invaluable promotion."

The limited edition wine be available to the public as part of the Treasury Brisbane's inaugural partnership with the Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show.

"This is part of a home-grown partnership backing Queensland's growing wine industry, which is playing a significant role in the state's struggling tourism and hospitality sectors," Chief Operating Officer Kelvin Dodt said.

"It's never been more important to support the producers in our own backyard and the Girraween Estate Cabernet Sauvignon will complement the casual but refined menu on offer at *Will and Flow*.

"It's the perfect spot to sit back and enjoy a glass of award winning red and some great food as you watch the sun set over the Brisbane River," Mr Dodt said.

For more information:

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