

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Blacktongues reveal surprise results at blind wine tasting of 1997 Australian shiraz

Adelaide, Australia, 24-May-2005 -- When the Adelaide Blacktongues met recently to taste their way blind through 10 bottles of nicely maturing 1997 Australian Shiraz they were pleasantly surprised when the covers came off the bottles to discover that the voted favorites were not what they expected.

All wines were masked and each member of the tasting panel had 1 hour to work through ten glasses of wine and assess each one based on personal preferences. Blacktongue tasting panels can be a good indicator of public opinion surrounding the sea of wine available to today's wine consumer.

The surprise of the night was the 1997 Pirramimma White Label Shiraz, a budget red wine that is certainly holding its own in the cellar amongst its peers. Mark Wickman of Wickman's Fine Wine Auctions said that this wine can often be obtained at auction for as little as \$15 per bottle.

Other wines that were maturing very nicely were the 1997 Majella Coonawarra Shiraz (\$30 at auction) and the 1997 Scarpantoni Block 3 McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$15 at auction).

Wickman's tasting notes for the top three winning wines;

1997 Pirramimma White Label Shiraz

Dark opaque purple. An elegant nose that opened up gloriously over time with complex aromas of dark chocolate, leather and blackfruits. Mouthfilling, intense fruits with redcurrant, chocolate and some leather on a long elegant finish.

1997 Majella Shiraz, Coonawarra

A nice purple color with some lightening at the edge. An excellent nose of sweet chocolate and blackberry that fairly leapt out of the glass. A medium bodied, elegant wine with complex nuances of berry, plums, nuts and lovely spices. Good length and tannins.

1997 Saltram Mamre Brook Shiraz, Barossa Valley

A nice nose with some pronounced secondary aromas of shoe leather, chocolate and tobacco. Good fruit intensity, dominant Barossa chocolate, with some underlying tobacco/apricot nuances. A firm backbone of grainy tannins, good length and finish.

All the tasting notes and a summary of the panels voting can be found on the Wickman's Fine Wine Auction website at http://www.wickman.net/wineauction/1997_Australian_Shiraz.htm

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