

Mr. Riggs

MR. RIGGS SHIRAZ VIOGNIER 2004 **STANDS TALL AMONGST BOUTIQUE WINEMAKERS!**

Ben Riggs, the Mr. Riggs behind Mr. Riggs Wines, and 'gentle giant' of the McLaren Lakers***, has stooped his not so boutique frame just a little to lift the Trophy for Best Shiraz, at the 2005 Boutique Wines of Australia Award last night in Sydney.

Mr Riggs Shiraz Viognier 2004 stood head and shoulders above 170 other Shiraz entries in class13. This year's Boutique Wines Award, was again chaired by Wine Critic and Author Huon Hooke, who announced the category winners at a black tie dinner for 200 guests at Sydney's Four Season's Hotel.

Despite being named The Boutique Wine awards and only open to Australian Wineries that crush less than 250 tonnes (15 000 dozen 750ml equivalent) significantly this mark represents almost 1500 of Australia's 1900 odd wineries.

The 2005 competition is the tenth birthday of the Boutique Wines of Australia Awards and everyone got to eat a piece of a birthday cake, which even the very tall Mr. Riggs approved of its size.

A slightly bleary eyed Ben Riggs was back down to earth today, with his knees closer to his chin in row 31, middle seat, flying back to McLaren Vale. However, whilst looking enviously through the curtain to the business class cabin, passengers were being offered one of his wines and the smiled returned to Mr Riggs from ear to ear.

This award tops off a great twelve months for Mr Riggs and his wines, after being nominated as a finalist for Qantas Gourmet Traveler Winemaker of the year for 2005, the overall winner to be announced on 26th July this year. Also, the 2003 Mr Riggs Shiraz Viognier (the first vintage of the wine) won the Hyatt Advertiser Wine of The Year Awards last year for Best Wine.

3000 dozen of the 2004 Shiraz Viognier was produced and is widely distributed by Moet Hennessy Australia. Trade enquiries please do not hesitate to contact Tamara Lee on W - (02) 8344 9906, M - 0409 669 005
tamara.lee@moet-hennessy.com.au

For more information on Mr Riggs, the wine and general information on Shiraz-Viognier blends, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Riggs Wines
Ph 08 8556 4460 or Ben Riggs directly on 0419 391 618
mrriggs@pennyshill.com.au

Further details on the Boutique Wines of Australia Awards and pictures please contact: Judith Kennedy 02 8338 8666 or Mob 0417 048 755
www.boutiquewines.com.au

***The McLaren Lakers basket ball team have been five time winners and slightly less impressively 10 times runners up in the little known but much loved Willunga league

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TUESDAY THE 19TH OF JULY 2005