



AUSTRALIAN ORGANIC 2023 WINE AWARDS

ASSOCIATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



About the Scholarship

In support of the yearly Australian Organic Wine Awards, an associate scholarship concept (now in its second year) has been developed to grow female talent and expand the ongoing legacy of the Awards. As part of the Award's purpose of raising the prestige and profile of organic and biodynamic wine, this scholarship is designed to increase female leadership in the organic wine industry.

The scholarship will support a year-long journey. Alongside a role as an associate judge on the tasting panel, the scholar will have access to a range of development and learning opportunities, including mentoring from industry leaders.

The Associate Scholarship is designed for an early or mid-career female wine professional working as a sommelier, writer, educator, manager or similar public-facing role. Women who harbour an ambition to pursue any of these fields, including wine judging, and wish to build their leadership potential are also encouraged to apply.

It is intended that each year's scholar will become a mentor for the following year's winner. Several key sponsors, people and resources have been engaged to support the scholarship and ensure its ongoing success.

Purpose:

- To foster, develop and grow female talent and leadership in the organic wine industry.

Objectives:

In line with Australian Organic Wine Awards objectives and to support the scholarship purpose of developing female talent, the five key objectives are to:

- Provide an industry leading wine scholarship program that specifically develops women, with a particular focus on organic wine
- Provide a holistic program for a female scholar each year, offering a range of opportunities that build capability through blended learning - exposure, experience and education
- Build a life changing scholarship program that is in demand and attracts the best emerging female talent in wine (build the female leadership pipeline)
- Position Australia Organic's Wine Awards and its scholarship program as progressive, equity based and industry leading
- Ensure a long-term legacy, create female ambassadors and advocates for the organic wine industry.

How to apply:

- Please send a cover letter outlining details of your experience in the wine industry and why you think you'd be a good fit for this scholarship (as well as a current copy of your CV) to shari.wilding@austorganic.com between 3 March 2023 and 14 April 2023.
- Appointment of the scholarship will be decided based on your application by a panel selected by Australian Organic Limited.

"As someone who has always been drawn to organic winemaking, the whole experience was incredible, and everyone's unique perspectives on the wines we judged was so valuable for my learning."

- Olivia Evans, previous scholarship recipient

Schedule of Benefits

In line with the purpose and objectives are a range of activities to develop each year's scholar. The approach is a blended learning method, which provides the scholar with a range of development opportunities across three key pillars: exposure, experience and education.

This will cover activities and build capability in areas of the organic industry, wine industry knowledge, wine judging, oenology, winemaking, viticulture, marketing, communication and wine writing.

Benefits include:

- Acting as an associate judge at the Australian Organic Wine Awards in Brisbane
- A ticket to the Australian Organic Wine Awards celebration dinner OR Industry Awards
- Mentoring sessions (approximately 2 hours each) with leaders from the organic and wine industry, covering the following areas:
 - a. Australian Organic Industry (Niki Ford)
 - b. The Wine Industry holistically (Mike Bennie)
 - c. Wine tasting and judging education (Masterclass – Ramon Arnavas, Mike Bennie)
- Continuing the legacy - a role mentoring the following year's scholar

Your commitment:

- Attend the Australian Organic Wine Awards judging days in Brisbane as required (over 3 days)
- Act as a mentor for future Associate Scholarship winners
- Actively promote and advocate for the Australian certified organic wine industry (brief to be provided by AOL) where possible
- Only publicly promote organic wine when representing Australian Organic Limited or attending organic affiliated events

Your Mentors

Your mentors include the following industry experts:



Niki Ford

CEO, Australian Organic Limited

Niki Ford joined AOL in 2018 and, in that time, has represented the organic industry to Government and leaders across the nation, advocating on behalf of organic primary producers and businesses. Ms Ford has extensive knowledge of organic consumer behaviour, organic production, regularity processes and trade market access matters.

For the past three years, Ms Ford has worked particularly to highlight the importance of a domestic regulatory framework for the organic sector, for the benefit of both industry and consumers while supporting Government on market access negotiations.

In 2020, Ms Ford was awarded a mentorship through the NFF's Diversity in Agricultural Leadership Program and returned in 2021 as a mentor. The same year she was also awarded a scholarship through the Tim Fairfax Foundation as part of the 28 Cohort of the Australian Rural Leadership Program.



Mike Bennie

Wine & Drinks Writer, Presenter & Wine Judge

When Mike Bennie isn't wandering vineyards on the four corners of the globe, he is a freelance wine and drinks writer, journalist and presenter. Mike is the wine/drinks editor for Australia's leading food magazine, *delicious.*, Editor-At-Large and contributor/writer to Australia's most interactive wine commentary website, *WineFront.com.au* and his work is found in *Gourmet Traveller Wine Magazine*, *Broadsheet* online and a variety of international publications. He is part of the team of critics that make up the esteemed *James Halliday Wine Companion Guide*.

Mike is also a co-founder and partner in the landmark P&V Wine + Liquor Merchants, a store and education space devoted to artisan fermented, brewed and distilled products. Mike is also drinks director of the highly-respected *WA Good Food Guide*. He is proudly a co-founder and co-director of the now retired artisan and sustainability-focused *Rootstock Sydney* food and wine festival. Mike is currently the chair of the *Australian Organic Wine Awards*. Oh, he also makes a bit of wine in Tasmania. He is prolific with his wine and drinks work, is a regular presenter at festivals, corporate and industry events, and between travels to exotic vineyards around the world, enjoys long walks on the beach with a bottle of wine (or mezcal) in his hand.

Your Mentors



Ramon Arnavas

Sommelier, Wine Judge

With over eighteen years of experience in the wine industry both as a Sommelier and as 'Wine Imports Leader' for Negotiants Australia, Ramon developed a keen interest in 'Wine Judging' and this led him to be chosen as a 'Len Evans Tutorial Scholar' as well as become the National DUX of the 'Lorenzo Galli Wine Scholarship' in 2016.

He continues to strive to expand his wine knowledge through research, tastings and wine judging.

Some of Ramon's accolades and wine judging experiences include:

- Len Evans Tutorial Scholar 2016
- Lorenzo Galli Scholarship National Dux 2016
- Sommelier Australia Educational Scholarship Scholar 2009
- WSET Level 2 2010
- Australian Small Winemakers Show 2021 - Judge
- Australian Organic Wine Show 2020 - Chairman of Show
- RASQ Wine Show and Mediterranean Challenge 2020 - Chairman of Show
- Royal Queensland Wine Show 2021, 2019, 2018, 2017 - Wine Judge
- RASQ Wine Show and Mediterranean Challenge 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016 - Panel Chair Judge