

Media Release:
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ASVO Honours two Australian Wine Industry Leaders

Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology (ASVO) President Dr Anthony Robinson, announced that two well-known members of the Society, Dr Richard Smart and Dr Robert Dambergs, have been honoured for their particularly outstanding and meritorious contribution to the grape and wine industry and to the Society by being admitted as Fellows of the Society

“Selection was particularly difficult this year because of the extremely high calibre of candidates being considered for ASVO Fellows”, said Dr Robinson. “The collective wisdom that both these people exhibit is extraordinary, matched only by the diversity of their background and experience.”

There are few people that have contributed more to the world of viticultural science than Dr Richard Smart. Richard has been a great advocate for the Australian wine industry and there is no doubt that Richard has had an outstanding career in education, research and service to the Australian wine industry.

He has challenged, motivated and mentored many current and past members of the Australian wine industry through his various teaching and industry roles. Richard has contributed substantially to the ASVO through seminars, workshops, publications, and to the *Australian Journal of Grape and Wine Research*.

On being advised of his award as Fellow, Dr Smart said, "I have spent the last eight or so years living outside Australia and have been somewhat out of sight. This makes the recognition of my career all the more significant to me, it is nice to be recognised at home, and where I began my profession and received the earliest training and mentorship. I am very grateful to the ASVO for this honour”.

Dr Robert (Bob) Dambergs has been, and continues to be, an exemplary role model for researchers in balancing novel scientific findings with applied outcomes for industry. His contributions to the grape and wine community have been countless, but all generate from his unique combination of deep understanding of industry needs, rigorous scientific planning and scientific knowledge, and critically, consideration of how to practically apply science to create impactful outcomes.

Bob joined the ASVO soon after his own entry into the wine industry and has been a member since. “The year I started in the wine industry and the first thing I did was go to an ASVO seminar “said Dr Dambergs.

Bob is recognised due to the breadth of his industry and research skills, both Oenology and Viticulture, his Society and other broader industry contributions, and importantly as a pioneer of spectroscopy research in the Australian industry. Most of all, the ASVO recognised his numerous mentoring roles contributing to the next generation through selfless sharing of his knowledge with others, an endearing characteristic of a Fellow of the Society.

The purpose of the honorary membership category of Fellow of the Australian Society of Viticulture & Oenology is to recognise the exemplary contributions by Members of the Society, and to the discipline and/or profession of Viticulture and/or Oenology.

The ASVO Fellowships were awarded during the Awards for Excellence Dinner at the National Wine Centre on Tuesday 13 November 2018.

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For more information, please contact:

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The Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology (ASVO), founded in 1980, is a professional society to serve the interests of practising winemakers and viticulturists by encouraging the exchange of technical information.