

PRESS RELEASE
1st December 2011 for immediate release



PAVILION



www.youngwinewriter.com

YOUNG WINE WRITER OF THE YEAR 2011 ANNOUNCED



The Circle of Wine Writers is proud to announce the **Young Wine Writer of the Year 2011 Award** winner as **Barley Blyton** of Bristol. Ms Blyton won the award with her entry '*A Journeying Introduction to South America and Her Wines*', winning over more than 25 other entrants.

The Award, now in its 11th year, is sponsored by Pavilion Books (publishers of Oz Clarke and Michael Broadbent MW) and the Circle of Wine Writers, together with Wine Australia. After much deliberation the judges short-listed (in alphabetical order): **Barley Blyton, Matthew Brass, Nik Byrne, Tom Constable, Barbara Drew, Nicholas Jackson, Hugh Jones** and **Sean Tennyson**.

This year the judges decided to announce four runners-up as there were so many high quality entries: **Matthew Brass, Tom Constable, Nicholas Jackson** and **Hugh Jones** who each received wine presented by Yvonne May, of Wine Australia.

Fiona Holman, Editorial Director of Pavilion Books, said: "*This award aims to encourage new writing talent within the world of wine and to provide a real opportunity for some inspiring travel to the vineyards and wineries of Australia. We are looking for wine writing potential rather than extensive knowledge or experience. We had a record number of quality entries this year which was most encouraging and I am sorry we could not give out more awards. I urge all this year's entrants still eligible to enter again next year.*"

Yvonne May, Director Wine Australia UK-Ireland-Europe, said: "I believe it's important to support up and coming writers in the wine industry. With the rise in of amateur enthusiasts in the evolving online space we know that to stand out you have to be exceptional, and these writers certainly deliver. Our congratulations to Barley; we can't wait to read her thoughts on Australia's winemakers, wine regions and wine. Right now Australian wines are more diverse and exciting than ever, and we know that she will be absolutely buzzing from the trip."

(cont)

This year's winner, Barley Blyton works for Davis Bell McCraith Wines, a wine merchant based in Bristol. Barley has an irrepressible passion for Italian wines. She entered the wine trade after finishing her degree in English and Italian literature where she spent most of her time in northern Italy cultivating her enthusiasm for food and wine. As well as a passion for the classic regions of the world, she has a penchant for Sherry and is now a trained official Sherry Educator. Barley was a shortlisted finalist for The Young Wine Writers Award in 2010.

The prizes for the 2011 winner include a £1000 cheque presented by **Pavilion Books**, a two-week trip of a lifetime to the wine regions of Australia, courtesy of **Wine Australia** and a year's subscription to the Circle of Wine Writers.

About the Young Wine Writer of the Year Awards

The Awards are aimed at encouraging and supporting new talent in the world of wine writing. While there are many well-established wine writers in the industry today, the Awards provide an opportunity for younger, less established writers to get a firm start in the world of wine. The announcement was celebrated last night at a reception at Australia House.

- ends -

For further information on the award contact:

Pavilion Wine:

Fiona Holman Editorial Director, Pavilion Books, fholman@anovabooks.com

Kom Patel Senior Publicity and Marketing Manager, kpatel@anovabooks.com

Wine Australia UK:

Camilla Coste camilla.coste@wineaustralia.com

For more information on Wine Australia visit www.apluswines or www.wineaustralia.com