

## 2013 Fleurieu Food Fiesta! Olive Awards

*The Fleurieu Food Fiesta! Olive Awards, now in their tenth year, celebrate the achievements of the olive growers of the Fleurieu Peninsula in South Australia. The area is widely known for the production of high quality food and produce, and is developing its own distinctive regional cuisine.*

The rich olive growing heritage of the Fleurieu Peninsula was celebrated at the 2013 Fleurieu Food Fiesta! Olive Awards, held on 4 November at the Elbow Room in McLaren Vale. The awards celebrate the great diversity of the region and highlight the Fleurieu Peninsula's distinctive terroir, where olives have been grown for over 130 years.

Twenty-five entrants in eleven categories produced two Gold Medals and showcased the outstanding produce of South Australia's premier olive growing region, demonstrating for the rest of the state and beyond the passion and skill of growers throughout the Fleurieu.

Best of Show Olive Oil was awarded to Hugo Wines of McLaren Vale, which won a Gold Medal in the Class 4 Varietal Challenge - Verdale and was commended for its sound aroma and for being a full, round olive oil.

The Best of Show Table Olives went to the Verdale olives from Coriole Vineyards, also from McLaren Vale, after it had collected a Gold Medal in the Class 10 Australian Table Olive Challenge, which was open to producers Australia wide.

In addition to the official judging, the awards also feature The Punter's Pick, in which the top five scoring olive oils were offered for tasting at the Willunga Farmers Market and Victor Harbor Farmers Market. Members of the public rated these five oils in order of preference, and in two very close competitions the winner at Victor Harbor was adjudged to be Koroneiki produced by Nangkita Olives of Ashbourne, while at Willunga, Nangkita Olives' Leccino received the punters' verdict.

These are the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Fiesta! Olive Awards and the number of entries continues to grow year on year. The awards are proudly supported by local businesses and growers and are of considerable value in promoting locally-grown produce and highlighting the role of olive oil as the focus of an evolving distinctive regional cuisine.

Fleurieu Living Magazine are the awards' major sponsors, with additional support by Rio Coffee, Jetty Food Store, Spice Girlz, and the Willunga and Victor Harbor Farmers' Markets.

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