



Pamela Galli, founder of Galli Estate Winery and patron of the scholarship, presents the 'Enoteca Sileno Award' to Krystina Menegazzo



Dux: Karina Damberg, group sparkling winemaker for Taltarni Vineyards and operations manager at Clover Hill Wines in Tasmania

2012 Lorenzo Galli Wine Scholarship

Damberg Scores Dux at the 2012 Lorenzo Galli Wine Scholarship.

After an intense two-day masterclass held in Melbourne, Karina Damberg, group sparkling winemaker for Taltarni Vineyards and operations manager at Clover Hill Wines in Tasmania was named dux of the 2012 Lorenzo Galli Wine Scholarship. The event, now in its fourth year, is Australia's only education program focused on Italian wines. The talented dux won the event by acing two days of challenges including a blind tasting of more than 100 wines and a written exam. She not only won bragging rights but also scored a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Italy valued at \$10,000 to experience the country's wine regions and producers. Pamela Galli, founder of Galli Estate Winery and patron of the scholarship, personally presented the prize to Karina.

The fierce competition was held at Galli Estate Winery in Plumpton (VIC) where nine other hopefuls battled for the title. Judges Jane Faulkner (wine writer and show judge), Michael Trembath (Italian premium wine importer) and Dan Sims (wine consultant) congratulated Karina on winning the distinguished title.

'There were 10 wonderful, bright and engaging scholars this year but, as always, only one can be dux. Karina impressed us with her ability to navigate through complex wine styles and varieties with succinct commentary and discussion along the way. She was a pleasure to have in the masterclass and clearly enjoyed the experience,' said Faulkner.

Scott Cosgriff of NSW, a solicitor and masters student in wine technology and viticulture at the University of Melbourne, received the 'The Writers Award' for the most outstanding essay and was presented with a selection of wine titles from Hardie Grant books.

The 'Enoteca Sileno Award' – an encouragement award comprising a \$1,000 at-cost wine voucher to spend at John

Portelli's Enoteca Sileno in Carlton – was awarded to Krystina Menegazzo, one of John's own staff members! Each scholar also received a gift of etched Schott Zweisel glassware, a bottle of Galli Estate wine and a certificate to commemorate their achievement.

The scholars in the 2012 program were taught by some of the leading specialists in the Italian and Australian wine industries. Joining the judging panel to facilitate the program were Sandro Mosele (winemaker, Port Phillip Estate & Kooyong), Kevin McCarthy (winemaker, T'Gallant), Mark Walpole (viticulturist and co-owner, Greenstone) and Ben Ranken (senior winemaker, Galli Estate Winery).

The Lorenzo Galli Wine Scholarship celebrates the diversity and richness of Italy's wine and history while showcasing the latest trends in Australia with its interpretations of Italian varietals. The program's patron, Pamela Galli, conceived the idea of a scholarship to honour Lorenzo, her late husband. Tuscan-born Lorenzo arrived in Australia in 1952 and diligently built up a successful property business. He added vigneron to his list of achievements when he and Pamela created Galli Estate Winery in Victoria's Sunbury region in 1997 and also developed their 260-acre Heathcote Camelback vineyard. The Heathcote site now provides fruit for the majority of Galli Estate's wine portfolio.

Lorenzo had a love for Italian grape varieties and the winemaking craft from growing grapes to their production; it was his dream to share that passion and encourage younger people to learn more about that process. While Galli Estate Winery continues to craft premium, sought-after wines with an Italian leaning, the scholarship is Pamela's personal tribute to Lorenzo.

www.winescholarship.com.au

The Lorenzo Galli Wine Scholarship Class of 2012 comprised: Bree Boskov (sommelier/wine sales representative – Circa Restaurant and The Spanish Acquisition, VIC); Christian Canala (sales manager – La Cantina Wines and Mercato, SA); Frieda Lucie Henskens (director – Henskens Rankin Wines, TAS); Harri Hunter (junior sommelier – Circa Restaurant, VIC); Karina Damberg (group sparkling winemaker – Taltarni Vineyards, TAS); Krystina Menegazzo (wine marketing coordinator and blogger – Enoteca Sileno/La Donna del Vino blog, VIC); Lisa Jenkins (manager/sommelier – City Wine Shop, VIC); Scott Cosgriff (solicitor and masters student in wine technology & viticulture at University of Melbourne – NSW).

The Writers' Award: Suzanne Little (winemaker/director – The Little Wine Company, NSW); Thomas New (assistant winemaker/viticulturist – Bent Road Winery, QLD).