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MEDIA RELEASE

Australian wine community looking to the future

As the delegates of the Australian wine community begin to depart Adelaide at the close of the 17th Australian Wine Industry Technical Conference (AWTIC), Australian Grape and Wine Chief Executive, Tony Battaglène, is feeling positive on the future of the \$42billion industry.

'The integration of the Outlook Conference with the AWITC and WineTech Exhibition has once again proven to be a winning combination for the three-year format. The vibe was incredibly positive, and the record number of attendees demonstrates this is what industry wants' said Mr Battaglène.

The Conference combined technical sessions, showcasing world class science, with thought provoking discussions around the threats and opportunities for the sector, and encompassing topical and sensitive issues around diversity and equality. 'The ground breaking Diversity & Equality session, Getting the Foundations Right, really hit the mark by putting front and centre the opportunities that are provided for the sector by dealing openly and respectfully with this important issue'.

On Monday night, the announcement that Robert Hill Smith of Yalumba Family Vignerons was awarded the 2019 Maurice O'Shea Award, was another cause for celebration. 'This award is given in recognition of the incredible service and contribution made to position Australia as a world leader in winemaking, cultivation, innovation, and technology, and Robert certainly embodies all of those qualities'.

'Robert is a long standing contributor to, and Board Member of, the Winemakers' Federation of Australia and now, Australian Grape & Wine. I am delighted to see Robert recognised for his commitment to the Australian wine industry through this most prestigious award.

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