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Media Release

Support announced and industry honoured at SAWIA's Wine Industry Dinner

South Australia's grape and wine industry came together last night for the 2026 South Australian Wine Industry Dinner, with Premier Peter Malinauskas announcing a \$109 million support package for the industry.

Hosted by the South Australian Wine Industry Association (SAWIA) at the National Wine Centre, the annual dinner brought together growers, winemakers, industry leaders and government to recognise the people, businesses and regions that underpin one of South Australia's most important industries.

The dinner was opened by Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, with the Premier delivering the keynote address.

The Premier announced a package of measures including government-backed loans, regional aggregation and storage sites for CCA-treated posts, surplus wine inventory solutions, an extension of the Global Wine Growth Program and the appointment of a Wine Industry Coordinator.

SAWIA President Kirsty Balnaves welcomed the announcement and the Government's commitment to working with industry through a period of significant change.

"Wine is part of the fabric of our state. It supports regional communities, creates jobs and carries South Australia's reputation around the world," Kirsty said.

"Our growers and winemakers have faced an incredibly challenging period, and this package recognises those pressures while investing in the future of our industry.

"We thank the Premier and the South Australian Government for working with industry and look forward to partnering on initiatives that strengthen our competitiveness, support regional economies and position South Australian wine for future success."

The evening also celebrated excellence across the industry, with winners announced for the 2026 SAWIA Excellence Awards, the 2026 Vinehealth Australia Biosecurity Champion Award and the 2027 Adelaide Great Wine Capitals Best Of Wine Tourism Awards.

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SAWIA Excellence Awards

The SAWIA Excellence Awards recognise outstanding achievements in environmental sustainability, work health and safety and individual leadership across the South Australian grape and wine supply chain. The 2026 SAWIA Excellence Award winners are:

- 2026 Work Health Safety Excellence Award, sponsored by the National Wine Education & Training Centre: **Hill-Smith Family Estates**.
- 2026 Small to Medium Business Environment Excellence Award, sponsored by the National Wine Education & Training Centre: **Freestone Estate**.
- 2026 Large Business Environment Excellence Award, sponsored by Green Industries SA: **Treasury Wine Estates**.
- 2026 Individual Champion Environment Excellence Award, sponsored by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions: **Darren Earle from Treasury Wine Estates**.

Vinehealth Australia Biosecurity Champion Award

The 2026 Vinehealth Biosecurity Champion Award recipient: **Catherine Kidman from Treasury Wine Estates**. Catherine was recognised for her significant leadership, engagement and contribution to regional and industry biosecurity preparedness.

Best Of Wine Tourism Awards

The 2027 Adelaide Great Wine Capitals Best Of Wine Tourism Award winners are:

- Accommodation: **Beresford Estate**
- Architecture and Landscape: **Jacob's Creek**
- Art and Culture: **d'Arenberg**
- Culinary Experiences: **Paulett Wines & Bush deVine Restaurant**
- Innovative Wine Tourism Experiences: **National Wine Centre**
- Wine Tourism Services: **Chateau Tanunda**
- Sustainable Wine Tourism Practices: **Paulett Wines & Bush deVine Restaurant**

About SAWIA

The South Australian Wine Industry Association is the peak body representing the interests of South Australian grape and wine businesses. SAWIA's origins date back to 1840, and since this time has served the South Australian wine industry, providing leadership, advocacy and practical support to businesses across the state.

SAWIA works across a broad range of areas critical to the success of grape and wine businesses, including government advocacy, workplace relations, work health and safety, environmental sustainability, industry and workforce development, skills and training, market development and wine education.

SAWIA also works closely with South Australia's regional wine associations, industry organisations and the South Australian Government to support the long-term strength and sustainability of the state's grape and wine sector.

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