

The Daily Telegraph
Never sniff at a bloke seeing red.

By Jo Hildebrand



Glass is always half full: Joe Hildebrand gets a lesson in wine appreciation from Sydney Wine Show judge Iain Riggs

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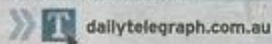
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WINE taster Iain Riggs has suffered much: ulcers, ruined teeth and mouth aching from the strain.

It's no life. And yet, here he is again, chairman of judges at the Sydney Royal Wine Show, sacrificing himself so winemakers might

Blog with Joe

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continue their quest for a perfect drop. Each of the past three days at Sydney Showgrounds, Mr Riggs and

fellow judges have stared at, sniffed and spat their way through some 150 glasses. Serious business, this wine.

Asked if the sector had become flooded with buffoons and shonks in the wake of the foodie boom, he snaps: "It's been part of the industry from the get go." I know he might be joking — but I'm still scared.