

MEDIA RELEASE
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New Zealand wines win record gold medals at international wine competition

- *Sauvignon Blanc Trophy claimed by New Zealand wine for eighth consecutive year*
- *New Zealand wines win Pinot Noir Trophy for third year running*

New Zealand wines today achieved a record number of gold medals at the International Wine and Spirit Competition (IWSC), taking out a total of 11 gold medals at the prestigious competition held in the United Kingdom.

The Sauvignon Blanc Trophy and Pinot Noir Trophies were once again claimed by New Zealand wines. A New Zealand wine has claimed the Sauvignon Blanc Trophy every year since 2000, and has won the Pinot Noir Trophy for three consecutive years.

The Remarkable Gibbston Valley Pinot Noir Central Otago 2006 was awarded The Bouchard Finlayson Pinot Noir Trophy, while the Astrolabe Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2008 claimed the IWSC Sauvignon Blanc Trophy.

The total medal count for New Zealand wines at this year's esteemed IWSC included 11 gold medals, 123 silver medals and 111 bronze medals. New Zealand wines won seven gold medals at last year's competition.

"The quality of New Zealand wines entered this year was outstanding. Each entry showed true understanding of its regionality and exploiting this to the best advantage," said IWSC Director, Frances Horder.

New Zealand Winegrowers global marketing director Chris Yorke says the results confirm New Zealand's major presence on the world wine stage and this year's results continue to demonstrate increasing diversification amongst varieties in New Zealand.

"We are thrilled with the record results this year, particularly the gold medal results which included six Pinot Noir, three Sauvignon Blanc and two aromatic varieties – one Gewürztraminer and one Riesling. Two of the gold medal winning Sauvignon Blancs were from the 2008 vintage, New Zealand's largest vintage to date.

"These outstanding results show New Zealand is not only being recognised for its consistency in producing high quality wines such as Pinot Noir and Sauvignon Blanc, but also across a diverse range of emerging varieties including aromatics," Mr Yorke said.

Remarkable Wines' Owner, Richard Guthrey said it was a great honour to be awarded the Bouchard Finlayson Trophy for Pinot Noir at this year's competition.

"It's a fantastic achievement both for us and for New Zealand wine. We're delighted that one of our wines has been recognised in such a prestigious competition – I'm quite blown away," Richard said.

Astrolabe's winemaker, Simon Waghorn was equally delighted to achieve such a prestigious international accolade.

“Going into the competition we knew that we had a great wine, and we’re ecstatic to have taken out one of the IWSC trophies. We’re exceptionally proud of our success this year.”

Founded in 1969, the International Wine and Spirit Competition (IWSC) is one of the premier competitions of its kind in the world and aims to promote the quality and excellence of the world’s best wines, spirits and liqueurs. For a full list of results visit www.iwsc.net

- ENDS -

Gold medals were awarded to the following New Zealand wines

- Remarkable Gibbston Valley Pinot Noir Central Otago 2006 - Bouchard Finlayson Pinot Noir Trophy
- Astrolabe Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2008 - IWSC Sauvignon Blanc Trophy
- Drumsara Ventifacts Block Pinot Noir Central Otago 2007
- Koura Bay Blue Duck Awatere Valley Pinot Noir Marlborough 2005
- Villa Maria Reserve Pinot Noir Marlborough 2007
- Mount Difficulty Roaring Meg Pinot Noir Central Otago 2007
- Tohu Rore Pinot Noir Marlborough 2006
- Waipara Hills Southern Cross Selection Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2007
- Saint Clair Pioneer Block 6 Wairau Valley Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2008
- Saint Clair Pioneer Block 12 Gewürztraminer Marlborough 2007
- Spy Valley Riesling Marlborough 2007

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