

MEDIA RELEASE

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ROMEO BRAGATO WINE AWARDS 2008 - Wine industry demonstrates its diversity -

A total of 39 gold medals have been awarded at this year's Romeo Bragato Wine Awards, with entries from a diverse range of traditional and emerging varietals.

The final medal tally consisted of 546 medals; 39 gold, 149 silver and 358 bronze - an increase almost 100 medals compared with last year's competition.

A total of 857 wines were entered this year, a 20 percent increase on last year, with judging based on three categories: colour and clarity; aroma and bouquet; and taste and general impression.

Chairman of Judges, Larry McKenna, said that the increasing diversity of the New Zealand wine industry was clear from the entries and results of this year's competition, with a number of entries from emerging varietals.

"It's fantastic to see wines such as the Askerne Noble Semillon 2006 – a class which New Zealand is not traditionally known for, taking out a gold medal.

"It was also exciting to see a diverse range of emerging Italian-style reds like the Dolcetto and Barbera varietals entered this year in the Other Red Wines categories. In this class two gold medals were won by the Malbec variety and one by a Montepulciano - both emerging varietals in our industry."

The Romeo Bragato Awards, held each year as part of the Romeo Bragato conference, celebrates the quality of grapes and the contribution of the grapegrower.

Trophy winners (the top wine from each varietal class) will be announced at the annual Romeo Bragato conference awards dinner on Saturday August 23 at the Christchurch Convention Centre in Christchurch.

A complete list of medal winners can be downloaded from www.nzwine.com/news

Gold medal wines included:

Chardonnay 2007

- Cape Campbell Limited Edition Reserve Chardonnay 2007, Cape Campbell Wines
- Clearview Estate Reserve Chardonnay 2007, Clearview Estate Winery
- Chardonnay, Gimblett Gravels Vineyard 2007, Craggy Range Winery
- Palliser Estate Chardonnay 2007, Palliser Estate
- Cognoscenti Gisborne Chardonnay 2007, Waimata Wines

Chardonnay 2006 and older

- Selaks Founder Reserve Chardonnay 2006, Corner 50 Winery
- Feraugs Chardonnay 2006, Davishon

Sauvignon Blanc 2008

- Saint Clair Pioneer Block 6 'Oh' Block Sauvignon Blanc 2008

Sauvignon Blanc 2007

- SP Small Parcel Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2007

Riesling 2007

- Seifried Riesling 2007, Seifried Estate

Riesling 2006 and older

- Waimea Bolitho SV Riesling 2006, Waimea Estates

Pinot Gris 2008

- Seifried Pinot Gris 2008, Seifried Estate
- Coopers Creek S.V. Marlborough Pinot Gris "The Pointer" 2008, Coopers Creek Vineyard Ltd.

Pinot Gris 2007

- Villa Maria Single Vineyard Seddon Pinot Gris
- Waimea Bolitho SV Pinot Gris 2007, Waimea Estates

Gewurztraminer 2007

- Askerne Gewurztraminer 2007, Askerne
- The Distinction Gewurztraminer 2007, Kemplefield Estate Winery
- Saint Clair Pioneer Block 12 Lone Gum Gewurztraminer 2007, Saint Clair Family Estate

Dessert Wines exceeding 50g/L sugar 2008 and older

- Askerne Noble Semillon 2006, Askerne
- Grove Mill Gewurztraminer 2006, The New Zealand Wine Company
- Charles Wiffen Late Harvest Riesling 2007, Charles Wiffen Wines

Cabernet Sauvignon/predominantly Cabernet Sauvignon blends 2006

- Mills Reef Elspeth Cabernet Sauvignon 2006, Mills Reef Winery

Merlot/predominantly Merlot blends 2007

- Mills Reef Reserve Merlot Malbec 2007, Mills Reef Winery

Merlot/predominantly Merlot blends 2006

- Saint Clair Rapaura Merlot 2006, Saint Clair Family Estate

Pinot Noir 2007

- The Aurora Vineyard Pinot Noir 2007, Vinpro
- Davishon Pinot Noir 2007, Davishon
- Grasshopper Rock Central Otago Pinot Noir 2007, Vinpro Winery
- Saint Clair Pioneer Block 5 Bull Block Pinot Noir 2007, Saint Clair Family Estate
- Hinton Estate Barrel Selection 2007, Hinton Estate Vineyard
- Mitre Rocks Pinot Noir 2007, Vinpro Winery
- Olssens Jackson Barry Pinot Noir 2007, Olssen's

Pinot Noir 2006

- Bannock Brae Estate Barrel Selection Pinot Noir 2006, Bannock Brae Estate

- Vynfields Pinot Noir 2006, Vynfields

Other Red Wines 2007

- Hihi Malbec 2007, Hihi Wines
- Beach House Montepulciano 2007, Beach House Wines

Other Red Wines 2006

- Newton Forrest Malbec 2006, Newton Forrest Estate

Syrah 2007

- Okahu Syrah 2007, Okahu Estate

Syrah 2006

- Newton Forrest Syrah 2006, Newton Forrest Estate
- Mills Reef Elspeth Syrah 2006, Mills Reef Winery

- ENDS -

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