

MEDIA RELEASE
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ROMEO BRAGATO WINE AWARDS 2008
- Central Otago wine awarded Champion Wine of Show -

A Pinot Noir has taken top honours at this year's Romeo Bragato Wine Awards, winning the prestigious Bragato Trophy for Champion Wine of Show.

John Olssen of Olssens Garden Vineyard produced the winning Olssens Jackson Barry Pinot Noir 2007, which was also awarded the Mike Wolter Memorial Trophy and Champion Pinot Noir.

The Olssens Jackson Barry Point Pinot Noir was produced in Central Otago, which chairman of judges, Larry McKenna, said is well renowned for its high quality Pinot Noir.

"The Central Otago region consistently produces top quality Pinot Noir, so it's no surprise that the area has produced this year's Champion Wine of Show."

He said a further highlight was the Askerne Noble Semillon 2006 – a class which New Zealand is not traditionally known for, being awarded the Champion Dessert Wine Plaque.

"It is very encouraging to see such high quality wines being produced across a range of emerging varieties. This is testament to the diversity of New Zealand as a winegrowing nation," said Mr McKenna.

The 14 champion awards and nine trophies were spread across the wine growing regions of Hawkes Bay, Nelson, Marlborough, Martinborough and Central Otago.

New Zealand Winegrowers chief executive Philip Gregan said the wines entered in this year's competition were once again characterised by the high quality that New Zealand wines are renowned for, both in New Zealand and internationally.

"The Bragato Awards are a unique opportunity for the industry to recognise the grapegrowers who work hard to produce outstanding New Zealand wines," he said.

The annual Romeo Bragato Wine Awards were announced in Christchurch last night [eds: 23 August] at the esteemed Bragato dinner, to an audience of grapegrowers, viticulturalists, winemakers and industry representatives.

The unique Awards recognise the importance of the grapegrowing process and celebrates viticultural excellence and come at the end of the three-day, 14th annual Romeo Bragato conference, which discusses the role science, technology and innovation plays in grape growing and wine making.

Reserve Champion Wine went to Alan Johnson of Palliser Vineyard in Martinborough for his Palliser Estate Chardonnay 2007.

AWARDS

CHAMPION WINE OF SHOW AND BRAGATO TROPHY WINNER

Olssens Jackson Barry Pinot Noir 2007
Olssen's Garden Vineyard – Central Otago
John Olssen

RICHARD SMART TROPHY AND RESERVE CHAMPION WINE

Palliser Estate Chardonnay 2007
Palliser Vineyard – Martinborough
Allan Johnson

CHAMPION AMATEUR WINE PLAQUE

Silverton Road Merlot Cabernet Malbec 2007
Silverton Road Vineyard – Hawke's Bay
Bruce Leppard

CHAMPION DESSERT WINE PLAQUE

Askerne Noble Semillon 2006
Askerne Vineyard – Hawke's Bay
Kathryn and John Loughlin

FRIEDRICH WOHSIEDLER TROPHY AND CHAMPION RIESLING

Seifried Riesling 2007
Seifried Estate - Nelson
Hermann Seifried

CHAMPION GEWURZTRAMINER

Saint Clair Pioneer Block 12 Lone Gum Gewurztraminer 2007
Lone Gum Vineyard - Marlborough
Chris and Judy Simmonds

BROTHER CYPRIAN TROPHY AND CHAMPION PINOT GRIS

Waimea Bolitho SV Pinot Gris 2007
TH & RM Bolitho Vineyard – Nelson
Trevor Bolitho

***NEW ZEALAND WINE CELLARS TROPHY AND CHAMPION SAUVIGNON
BLANC***

Saint Clair Pioneer Block 6 'Oh' Block Sauvignon Blanc 2008
Buckland Grove Vineyard - Marlborough
Martin and Gail Goyne

BILL IRWIN TROPHY AND CHAMPION CHARDONNAY

Palliser Estate Chardonnay 2007
Palliser Vineyard – Martinborough
Allan Johnson

MIKE WOLTER MEMORIAL TROPHY AND CHAMPION PINOT NOIR

Olssens Jackson Barry Pinot Noir 2007
Olssen's Garden Vineyard – Central Otago
John Olssen

CHAMPION CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Mills Reef Elspeth Cabernet Sauvignon 2006
Mere Road Vineyard – Hawke's Bay
Paddy and Tim Preston

TOM McDONALD MEMORIAL TROPHY AND CHAMPION CLASSICAL RED WINE

Saint Clair Rapaura Reserve Merlot 2006
Rapaura Vineyard – Marlborough
Neal and Judy Ibbotson

ALAN LIMMER TROPHY AND CHAMPION SYRAH

Newton Forrest Syrah 2006
Cornerstone Vineyard – Hawke's Bay
Bob Newton

CHAMPION OTHER RED WINE

Beach House Montepulciano 2007
The Track Vineyard – Hawke's Bay
Chris Harrison

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