

**Media Release**  
**21 November 2009**

**MARTINBOROUGH PINOT NOIR AWARDED CHAMPION WINE OF SHOW  
AT 2009 AIR NEW ZEALAND WINE AWARDS**

- *First time in 20 years that Martinborough wine awarded top trophy*
- *19 trophies and 38 elite gold medals awarded*
- *Central Otago Riesling named top sustainable wine*
- *Chardonnay most awarded varietal*

The Julicher Pinot Noir 2008, produced by Julicher Estate in Martinborough has taken out the top title at the 2009 Air New Zealand Wine Awards, claiming the Air New Zealand Champion Wine of the Show Trophy.

This is the first time in the competition's almost 30 year history that a Martinborough Pinot Noir has claimed the top trophy. The last time any Martinborough wine was awarded the Champion Wine of Show trophy was in 1989.

A Central Otago Riesling - Olssens Annieburn Riesling 2009 – was named top sustainable wine, taking out the Bell Gully Sustainable Wine Trophy.

Chair of judges Steve Smith, Master of Wine (MW), said Pinot Noir was one of the standout varietals of this year's competition, and it was fitting that this varietal claimed the top trophy.

"We have had two extremely good vintages in a row of Pinot Noir with over 300 wines entered in the 2009 competition - the most ever entered," Mr Smith said.

"The Julicher Pinot Noir 2008 is a true example of New Zealand Pinot Noir at its best, featuring a deep brooding black cherry colour, dusty plum and autumn forests on the nose. This is the first time the Pinot Noir pioneers of Martinborough have claimed the top trophy, and it is truly deserved."

He said the Olssens Annieburn Riesling 2009 is also a world-class wine that left a lasting impression on the judging panel.

"It has a beautifully intense nose of flowers, lime and spearmint leaves and delivers a brilliantly juicy start to the palate."

Thirty-eight elite gold medals, including two pure elite gold medals (awarded to sustainably-produced wines) were also awarded to wines from eight of New Zealand's ten key winegrowing regions at this evening's Awards dinner in Christchurch. Elite gold and pure elite gold medals recognise gold medal-winning wines that are truly outstanding.

The gold, silver and bronze medals were announced on Wednesday 11 November and are available at [www.airnzwineawards.co.nz](http://www.airnzwineawards.co.nz).

“This year we awarded the most elite gold medals ever awarded in the history of the Air New Zealand Wine Awards. All wines are judged against rigorous international standards so this result is a true testament to the quality of New Zealand wine.”

Chardonnay was awarded eight elite gold medals, the most awarded to any single varietal this year.

“Chardonnay was the true star of the white wine classes this year receiving 18 gold medals, including the elite gold medals. These are very exciting world-class wines,” Mr Smith said.

Organised by New Zealand Winegrowers, the Air New Zealand Wine Awards is the country’s most prestigious wine competition. This year’s Awards attracted 1,655 entries from New Zealand’s ten key winegrowing regions.

Air New Zealand is a long-time and proud supporter of the New Zealand wine industry and has been a partner of the Air New Zealand Wine Awards for more than 20 years.

“As the national airline of New Zealand, we are committed to showcasing the very best our country has to offer to the world,” said Air New Zealand Deputy CEO, Norm Thompson.

Each year Air New Zealand serves more than 6.5 million glasses of wine onboard its flights, making the airline the largest single server of wine in the country.

### **Regional highlights**

Wines from Hawke’s Bay were awarded seven of the 19 trophies announced this evening. The winning wines were Church Road Reserve Viognier 2007; Coopers Creek SV Hawkes Bay Syrah Chalk Ridge 2008; Couper’s Shed Pinot Gris 2009; Trinity Hill Gimblett Gravels Tempranillo 2008; Villa Maria Reserve Merlot 2007; Mills Reef Elspeth Cabernet Merlot 2007; and Farmgate Noble Harvest Riesling 2007.

Wines from the Marlborough region won six trophies, for Catalina Sounds Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2009; Forrest The Doctors’ Riesling 2009; Johanneshof Cellars Marlborough Gewurztraminer 2009; Esk Valley Marlborough Riesling 2009; Deutz Marlborough Cuvee Blanc de Blancs 2006; and Villa Maria Reserve Marlborough Chardonnay 2006.

### **Air New Zealand Wine Awards results and dinner**

The gold, silver and bronze medals were announced on Wednesday 11 November. All results are available at [www.airnzwineawards.co.nz](http://www.airnzwineawards.co.nz).

The 2009 Air New Zealand Wine Awards were held in Christchurch tonight at the Christchurch Convention Centre, and was attended by 670 guests.

Guests enjoyed the trophy-winning wines accompanied by a six-course dinner designed by Air New Zealand's team of Consultant Chefs including Rex Morgan from Boulcott Street Bistro in Wellington; Peter Gordon from dine by Peter Gordon and Bellota in Auckland; and The Providores and Tapa Room in London; and Geoff Scott from Vinnies Restaurant in Auckland.

### **carboNZero<sup>Cert™</sup> certification**

This year the Air New Zealand Wine Awards has successfully achieved carboNZero certification.

This means that the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the event have been measured and reduced, and the remaining unavoidable emissions have been offset by purchasing verified carbon credits from credible New Zealand projects.

### **AIR NEW ZEALAND WINE AWARDS 2009 TROPHY WINNERS**

#### ***Air New Zealand Champion Wine of the Show Trophy***

*Julicher Pinot Noir 2008*

#### ***Bell Gully Champion Sustainable Wine Trophy***

*Olssens Annieburn Riesling 2009*

#### ***JF Hillebrand New Zealand Ltd Champion Pinot Noir Trophy***

*Julicher Pinot Noir 2008*

#### ***Label & Litho Champion Chardonnay Trophy***

*Villa Maria Reserve Barrique Chardonnay 2007*

#### ***O-I New Zealand Champion Sauvignon Blanc Trophy***

*Catalina Sounds Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2009*

#### ***BDO Champion Other White Styles & Rosé Trophy***

*Church Road Reserve Viognier 2007*

#### ***Fairfax Media Champion Open Red Wine Trophy***

*Waipara Hills Southern Cross Selection Central Otago Pinot Noir 2008*

#### ***Fruitfed Supplies Champion Syrah Trophy***

*Coopers Creek SV Hawkes Bay Syrah Chalk Ridge 2008*

#### ***LatitudeGT Champion Pinot Gris Trophy***

*Couper's Shed Pinot Gris 2009*

**Newstalk ZB Champion Other Red Styles Trophy**

*Trinity Hill Gimblett Gravels Tempranillo 2008*

**New World Champion Open White Wine Trophy**

*Forrest The Doctors' Riesling 2009*

**New Zealand Winegrowers Champion Gewurztraminer Trophy**

*Johanneshof Cellars Marlborough Gewurztraminer 2009*

**New Zealand Winegrowers Champion Merlot Trophy**

*Villa Maria Reserve Merlot 2007*

**Plant & Food Research Champion Riesling Trophy**

*Esk Valley Marlborough Riesling 2009*

**Rabobank Champion Cabernet Sauvignon or Merlot/Cabernet Blend Trophy**

*Mills Reef Elspeth Cabernet Merlot 2007*

**Stuff.co.nz Champion Sparkling Wine Trophy**

*Deutz Marlborough Cuvee Blanc de Blancs 2006*

**Wineworks Champion Dessert Wine Trophy**

*Farmgate Noble Harvest Riesling 2007*

**Corbans Viticulture Champion Exhibition White or Sparkling Wine Trophy**

*Villa Maria Reserve Marlborough Chardonnay 2006*

**Kapiti Champion Exhibition Red Wine Trophy**

*Georgetown Vineyard Pinot Noir 2007*

**PURE ELITE GOLD MEDALS**

Olssens Annieburn Riesling 2009

R.S.V.P. Crosse Vineyard Marlborough Riesling 2008

**ELITE GOLD MEDALS**

**Gewurztraminer**

Johanneshof Cellars Marlborough Gewurztraminer 2009

Waimea Nelson Gewurztraminer 2008

**Riesling**

Bouldevines Riesling 2009

Esk Valley Marlborough Riesling 2009

Forrest The Doctors' Riesling 2009

Vic Williams Selection Classic Marlborough Riesling 2008

**Sauvignon Blanc**

Catalina Sounds Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2009  
Saint Clair Pioneer Block 19 Bird Block Sauvignon Blanc 2009  
Saint Clair Pioneer Block 3 43 Degrees Sauvignon Blanc 2009  
Waimea Nelson Sauvignon Blanc 2009  
Wairau River Home Block Sauvignon Blanc 2007

### **Chardonnay**

Coopers Creek Gisborne Chardonnay Unoaked 2008  
John Forrest Collection Chardonnay 2004  
Mudbrick Vineyard Reserve Chardonnay 2008  
Te Awa Chardonnay 2007  
Villa Maria Reserve Barrique Chardonnay 2007  
Villa Maria Reserve Hawkes Bay Chardonnay 2008  
Villa Maria Reserve Marlborough Chardonnay 2006  
Villa Maria Single Vineyard Taylors Pass Chardonnay 2006

### **Viognier**

Church Road Reserve Viognier 2007

### **Dessert Wine Styles**

Farmgate Noble Harvest Riesling 2007  
Margrain Botrytis Riesling 2009

### **Pinot Noir**

Fairmont Estate Pinot Noir 2008  
Georgetown Vineyard Pinot Noir 2007  
Greystone Waipara Pinot Noir 2008  
Julicher 99 Rows Te Muna Road Pinot Noir 2008  
Julicher Pinot Noir 2008  
Villa Maria Reserve Pinot Noir 2007  
Villa Maria Single Vineyard Southern Clays Pinot Noir 2008

### **Cabernet Sauvignon and Blends based on Merlot and/or Cabernet Sauvignon**

Mills Reef Elspeth Cabernet Merlot 2007  
Trinity Hill Gimblett Gravels The Gimblett 2007

### **Syrah**

Church Road Reserve Syrah 2008  
Coopers Creek SV Hawkes Bay Syrah Chalk Ridge 2008  
Corbans Cottage Block Hawke's Bay Syrah 2007  
Mills Reef Elspeth Syrah 2007  
Vidal Hawkes Bay Syrah 2007

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### **For further information please contact:**

Steve Smith, MW  
Chair of Judges, Air New Zealand Wine Awards  
Phone: 021 703 241

Chris Yorke  
Global Marketing Director, New Zealand Winegrowers  
Phone 09 306 5551 or 021 419 194

Sarah McGregor  
nbpr  
Phone 04 494 5126 or 027 283 5694