

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **YOUNG VITICULTURIST OF THE YEAR AND SILVER SECATEURS AWARDS ANNOUNCED**

Simon Bishell of Caythorpe Vineyards in Blenheim has been named 2008 Young Viticulturist of the Year as part of the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Romeo Bragato conference.

Also awarded at the conference was Andrew Stove of Hawkes Bay, who has been named winner of the national Silver Secateurs Grape Vine Pruning Competition for 2008 for Individual Pruning.

#### **Young Viticulturist of the Year**

Simon Bishell from Caythorpe Vineyards in Blenheim was delighted to accept this award after progressing through a rigorous judging process to take the esteemed title for 2008.

Cameron Roucher from Dolbel Estate in Napier was placed second in the competition, which is judged over a number categories including pruning ability, general viticultural knowledge, and budgeting and machinery skills.

Simon showed outstanding knowledge in these areas to win the title for 2008.

The Young Viticulturist of the Year competition provides up and coming talent the opportunity to progress their skills and networking ability. The winner goes on to compete in the Young Horticulturalist of the Year competition, which for the past two years has been won by the Young Viticulturist of the Year.

#### **Silver Secateurs**

This year, Andrew Stove of Hawke's Bay won the Bahco Individual Pruning Trophy with his attention to detail and outstanding pruning knowledge.

Other trophy winners include Sam Clay of Marlborough won the Pernod Ricard Tying Trophy, while the Matua Valley team, of Hawke's Bay won the Team Trophy.

The competition, run in conjunction with the Romeo Bragato conference, is designed to encourage high standards and recognise the skills of New Zealand pruners.

New Zealand Winegrowers chief executive Philip Gregan said pruning is a key skill required by grapegrowers to produce high quality wines, and the Silver Secateurs competition is designed to recognise this skill.

“Pruning is not a straight-forward task – it’s an art for a grapegrower. In order to prune correctly and produce top quality wines there are many skills such as tying cutting and recognising vine health, which are needed in order to prune vines correctly,” he said.

The Silver Secateurs and Young Viticulturist of the Year Awards are held in conjunction with the Romeo Bragato conference, which discusses the role science, technology and innovation plays in grapegrowing and winemaking.

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