



## Varietal and Regional Trophies awarded at New Zealand Wine of the Year

The first round of trophies has been announced in the 2019 New Zealand Wine of the Year™ competition, with thirteen varietal trophies and eight regional trophies awarded today.

In the varietal trophies, Central Otago shone with their Pinot Noir, while the aromatic white wines were strongly dominated by Marlborough, who also secured the Chardonnay bragging rights.

Hawke's Bay once again demonstrated its strength in the full-bodied red category, with local wines from Saint Clair Estate and Villa Maria taking out the Champion Merlot, Cabernet (and Blends), and Champion Syrah trophies respectively.

Eight regional trophies were awarded to the top wines from Auckland, Hawke's Bay, Gisborne, Wairarapa, Marlborough, Nelson, Canterbury and Central Otago.

In a plot twist, the winner of the Best Wine - Marlborough was not a Sauvignon Blanc. The honour instead went to Isabel Estate Winery for their renowned 2018 Wild Barrique Chardonnay. The winner of the Champion Sauvignon Blanc Trophy was just over the hill in Nelson, where family owned winery Seifried Estate picked up the accolade for their 2019 Sauvignon Blanc.

Chair of Judges for the New Zealand Wine of the Year™ Warren Gibson says he was extremely pleased to see a strong relationship between variety, style and wine region in the trophy winners of this year's Awards. "More than ever we are finding a true sense of place in our very youthful wine industry."

Other individual highlights were achieved by the smaller wine regions with varietal and regional trophies being awarded in the Gisborne region for Champion Sparkling wine, and Best Wine – Wairarapa going to Martinborough Vineyard for their Te Tera Sauvignon Blanc.

The final act will be the awarding of the eight major trophies for the New Zealand Wine of the Year™ competition. These will be announced at the New Zealand Wine Awards dinner on Saturday 16 November and include; New Zealand Wine of the Year™ Champion (presented by O-I New Zealand), Best Single Vineyard White Wine, Hillebrand New Zealand Best Single Vineyard Red Wine, Label and Litho Limited Best Open White Wine, QuayConnect Best Open Red Wine, Best Organic White Wine, Best Organic Red Wine and Best Wine of Provenance.

**-ENDS-**

For further information contact:

Amber Silvester

Communications Manager, New Zealand Winegrowers

M: 021 794 381

<https://www.nzwine.com/nzwy/>



## **VARIETAL TROPHIES**

### **CHAMPION SPARKLING** *Sponsor: WineWorks*

Lindauer Vintage Series Brut Cuvée, Gisborne 2017

### **CHAMPION GEWÜRZTRAMINER** *Sponsor: Riedel New Zealand*

Wairau River Gewürztraminer, Marlborough 2019

### **CHAMPION PINOT GRIS** *Sponsor: Dish Magazine*

Russian Jack Pinot Gris, Marlborough 2019

### **CHAMPION RIESLING** *Sponsor: Plant & Food Research*

Lake Chalice The Falcon Riesling, Marlborough 2019

### **CHAMPION SAUVIGNON BLANC** *Sponsor: Antipodes Water Company*

Seifried Sauvignon Blanc, Nelson 2019

### **CHAMPION CHARDONNAY**

Isabel Estate Wild Barrique Chardonnay, Marlborough 2018

### **CHAMPION SWEET WINE**

Forrest Botrytised Riesling, Marlborough 2018

### **CHAMPION ROSÉ** *Sponsor: New World*

Two Rivers Isle of Beauty Rosé, Marlborough 2019

### **CHAMPION PINOT NOIR** *Sponsor: Guala Closures New Zealand*

Thornbury Pinot Noir, Central Otago 2018

### **CHAMPION MERLOT, CABERNET AND BLENDS**

Saint Clair Pioneer Block 17 Plateau Cabernet Merlot, Hawke's Bay 2018

### **CHAMPION SYRAH** *Sponsor: winejobsonline.com*

Villa Maria Cellar Selection Syrah, Hawke's Bay 2018

### **CHAMPION OTHER WHITE WINES**

Villa Maria Cellar Selection Viognier, Hawke's Bay 2018

### **CHAMPION OTHER RED STYLES**

The Boneline Amphitheatre Cabernet Franc, Waipara 2018

*Regional trophies cont. on next page.*



## **REGIONAL TROPHIES**

### **BEST WINE – AUCKLAND**

Villa Maria Single Vineyard Ihumatao Chardonnay, Auckland 2018

### **BEST WINE – CANTERBURY**

Mud House Single Vineyard The Mound Vineyard Riesling, Waipara Valley 2018

### **BEST WINE - CENTRAL OTAGO**

Thornbury Pinot Noir, Central Otago 2018

### **BEST WINE – GISBORNE**

Lindauer Vintage Series Brut Cuvée, Gisborne 2017

### **BEST WINE - HAWKE'S BAY**

Villa Maria Cellar Selection Syrah, Hawke's Bay 2018

### **BEST WINE – MARLBOROUGH**

Isabel Estate Wild Barrique Chardonnay, Marlborough 2018

### **BEST WINE – NELSON**

Seifried Sauvignon Blanc, Nelson 2019

### **BEST WINE – WAIRARAPA**

Martinborough Vineyard Te Tera Sauvignon Blanc, Martinborough 2019