

AIR NEW ZEALAND   
WINE AWARDS



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**26 October 2016**

**For immediate release**

**Gold medals announced for 2016 Air New Zealand Wine Awards**

Following three days of judging over 1,400 wines, 91 gold medals have been awarded in this year's Air New Zealand Wine Awards.

Chair of Judges and Master of Wine Michael Brajkovich said the most pleasing aspect of this year's awards was the spread of gold medals across a number of varieties and regions.

"Pinot Noir was once again the star performer with 17 golds. Predominantly the wines came from Marlborough and Central Otago, but a Hawke's Bay Pinot Noir was also in the mix."

"The top wines from other categories were exceptional, particularly from Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Gris, Riesling and Syrah, and the quality of Hawke's Bay Merlot and Cabernet-based wines took a big step up this year hailing from strong 2013 and 2014 vintages."

In addition to the 91 gold medals, 268 silver medals and 614 bronze medals were awarded by the judges, bringing the total number of medals awarded across the 17 different classes to 973.

The 'best of the best' elite gold and trophy winning wines will be revealed at a black tie dinner in Auckland on 12 November. The dinner marks the 30th anniversary of the partnership between New Zealand Winegrowers and naming rights sponsor Air New Zealand.

**-ENDS-**

**Editors' Notes:**

A tasting of the 91 gold medals will take place today for media:

Wednesday 26 October

5-7pm

Air New Zealand Customer Innovation & Collaboration Centre

Corner of Westhaven Drive & Beaumont Street

Auckland CBD

The Air New Zealand Wine Awards are a celebration of excellence in New Zealand winemaking and are widely considered to be the country's most prestigious wine competition. New Zealand Winegrowers, the national organisation for the country's 1,600 grape growers and winemakers, has

owned and organised the competition for the past 40 years. For more information visit [www.airnzwineawards.co.nz](http://www.airnzwineawards.co.nz)

The following lists the gold medal winners and the trophies they are eligible for at the black tie dinner on 12 November:

#### **Gold medals by varietal**

Sparkling	3
Gewürztraminer	2
Pinot Gris	8
Riesling	6
Sauvignon Blanc	14
Chardonnay	13
Sweet White Wine	5
Rosé	5
Pinot Noir	17
Merlot, Cabernet and Blends	8
Syrah	6
Other Varieties - Single	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>

#### **Gold medals by region**

Gisborne	2
Hawke's Bay	26
Wellington / Wairarapa	1
Nelson	2
Marlborough	44
Canterbury	3
Otago	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>

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

##### **Gold**

Brennan B2 Pinot Noir Central Otago 2014  
 Eradus Single Vineyard Awatere Valley Pinot Noir Marlborough 2015  
 Giesen Single Vineyard Ridge Block Pinot Noir Marlborough 2015  
 Jackson Estate Vintage Widow Pinot Noir Marlborough 2014  
 Lake Chalice The Nest Pinot Noir Marlborough 2014  
 Lowburn Ferry Home Block Pinot Noir Central Otago 2014  
 Nanny Goat Vineyard Pinot Noir Central Otago 2015  
 Osawa Winemaker's Collection Pinot Noir Hawke's Bay 2014  
 Rocky Point Pinot Noir Central Otago 2015  
 Scott Base Pinot Noir Central Otago 2015  
 Thornbury Pinot Noir Central Otago 2015  
 Tohu Awatere Valley Pinot Noir Marlborough 2015  
 Villa Maria Reserve Pinot Noir Marlborough 2014  
 Yealands Estate Single Vineyard Pinot Noir Marlborough 2015

#### **Rabobank New Zealand Champion Chardonnay**

##### **Gold**

Brancott Estate Letter Series "O" Chardonnay Marlborough 2015  
Brightwater Vineyards Chardonnay Nelson 2015  
Clearview Estate Coastal Chardonnay Hawke's Bay 2015  
Coopers Creek SV 'Limeworks' Chardonnay Hawke's Bay 2015  
Giesen The Fuder Clayvin Chardonnay Marlborough 2014  
Leveret Estate Chardonnay Hawke's Bay 2014  
Te Kairanga John Martin Chardonnay Martinborough 2015  
Trinity Hill Gimblett Gravels Chardonnay Hawke's Bay 2015  
Villa Maria Cellar Selection Chardonnay Marlborough 2015  
Villa Maria Reserve Barrique Fermented Chardonnay Gisborne 2015  
Villa Maria Single Vineyard Keltern Chardonnay Hawke's Bay 2015

#### **Label and Litho Champion Sauvignon Blanc**

##### **Gold**

Babydoll Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2016  
Brancott Estate Terroir Series Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2016  
Esk Valley Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2016  
Fairhall Downs Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2016  
Giesen The August Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2014  
Grove Mill Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2015  
Hunter's Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2016  
Leefield Station Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2016  
Peregrine Sauvignon Blanc Central Otago 2016  
Saint Clair Pioneer Block 1 Foundation Block Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2016  
Saint Clair Pioneer Block 20 Cash Block Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2016  
Stoneleigh Latitude Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2016  
Villa Maria Single Vineyard Southern Clays Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2016  
Yealands Estate Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2016

#### **Quay Connect Champion Other White Styles**

##### **Gold**

Leveret Estate Viognier Hawke's Bay 2015  
Nautilus Albariño Marlborough 2016

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

##### **Gold**

Alpha Domus The Barnstormer Syrah Hawke's Bay 2015  
Mission Barrique Reserve Syrah Hawke's Bay 2015  
Mission Jewelstone Syrah Hawke's Bay 2014  
Te Awa Single Estate Syrah Hawke's Bay 2014  
Villa Maria Cellar Selection Syrah Hawke's Bay 2014

#### **Guala Closures New Zealand Ltd Champion Pinot Gris**

##### **Gold**

Mount Riley Pinot Gris Marlborough 2016  
Petane Station Esk Valley Single Vineyard Pinot Gris Hawke's Bay 2015  
Stoneleigh Pinot Gris Marlborough 2016  
Thornbury Pinot Gris Waipara Valley 2016  
Tinpot Hut Pinot Gris Marlborough 2016  
Waipara Hills Pinot Gris Waipara Valley 2016  
Wairau River Pinot Gris Marlborough 2016

Wairau River Pinot Gris Marlborough 2015

**Plumm Glassware Champion Gewürztraminer**

**Gold**

Lawson's Dry Hills Gewürztraminer Marlborough 2015

Whitehaven Gewürztraminer Marlborough 2016

**Coast FM Champion Merlot, Cabernet and Blends**

**Gold**

Church Road McDonald Series Cabernet Sauvignon Hawke's Bay 2014

Church Road McDonald Series Merlot Hawke's Bay 2013

Crossroads Winemakers Collection Cabernet Merlot Hawke's Bay 2013

Saint Clair Pioneer Block 17 Plateau Merlot Hawke's Bay 2015

Te Awa Single Estate Merlot/Cabernet Sauvignon Hawke's Bay 2014

Villa Maria Reserve Gimblett Gravels Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot Hawke's Bay 2014

**Plant & Food Research Champion Riesling**

**Gold**

Giesen Riesling New Zealand 2015

Saint Clair Premium Riesling Marlborough 2015

Vidal Estate Dry Riesling Marlborough 2015

**WineWorks Limited Champion Sparkling Wine**

**Gold**

Daniel Le Brun Methode Traditionnelle Blanc de Blancs Marlborough 2011

Deutz Cuvee Blanc De Blancs Methode Traditionnelle Marlborough 2013

Verde Brut Gisborne NV

**Wine-Searcher Champion Sweet White Wine**

**Gold**

Giesen The Brothers Late Harvest Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2014

Riverby Estate SV Noble Riesling Marlborough 2015

Seifried Winemakers Collection Sweet Agnes Riesling Nelson 2016

Villa Maria Cellar Selection Late Harvest Riesling Marlborough 2015

Wairau River Reserve Botrytised Riesling Marlborough 2016

**Liquorland Champion Rosé**

**Gold**

Akarua RUA Pinot Rosé Central Otago 2016

Domain Road Vineyard Pinot Noir Rosé Central Otago 2016

Whitehaven Pinot Rosé Marlborough 2016

**New World Champion Open White Wine**

**Gold**

Babydoll Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2016

Brancott Estate Terroir Series Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2016

Esk Valley Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2016

Giesen Riesling New Zealand 2015

Grove Mill Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2015

Hunter's Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2016

Leefield Station Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2016

Mount Riley Pinot Gris Marlborough 2016  
Peregrine Sauvignon Blanc Central Otago 2016  
Saint Clair Pioneer Block 1 Foundation Block Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2016  
Saint Clair Pioneer Block 20 Cash Block Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2016  
Saint Clair Premium Riesling Marlborough 2015  
Stoneleigh Latitude Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2016  
Stoneleigh Pinot Gris Marlborough 2016  
Thornbury Pinot Gris Waipara Valley 2016  
Villa Maria Cellar Selection Chardonnay Marlborough 2015  
Waipara Hills Pinot Gris Waipara Valley 2016  
Wairau River Pinot Gris Marlborough 2016  
Yealands Estate Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2016

### **Dish Magazine Champion Open Red Wine**

#### **Gold**

Alpha Domus The Barnstormer Syrah Hawke's Bay 2015  
Church Road McDonald Series Merlot Hawke's Bay 2013  
Jackson Estate Vintage Widow Pinot Noir Marlborough 2014  
Nanny Goat Vineyard Pinot Noir Central Otago 2015  
Yealands Estate Single Vineyard Pinot Noir Marlborough 2015

### **Rangitikei Chicken Champion Exhibition White or Sparkling Wine**

#### **Gold**

Archangel Chardonnay Central Otago 2015  
Beach House Riesling Hawke's Bay 2016  
Maude Mt Maude Vineyard Dry Riesling Central Otago 2016  
Villa Maria Single Vineyard Keltern Chardonnay Hawke's Bay 2014  
Waipara Hills Equinox Riesling Waipara Valley 2015

### **Champion Exhibition Red Wine**

#### **Gold**

Abbey Cellars Testament Cabernet Merlot Hawke's Bay 2013  
Church Road McDonald Series Marzemino Hawke's Bay 2014  
Grey Ridge Pinot Rosé Central Otago 2016  
Marisco The Craft Series The Journey Pinot Noir Marlborough 2013  
Matua Single Vineyard Merlot Hawke's Bay 2013  
Mission Reserve Cabernet Franc Hawke's Bay 2014  
Saint Clair Pioneer Block 15 Strip Block Pinot Noir Marlborough 2015  
Villa Maria Reserve Gimblett Gravels Syrah Hawke's Bay 2013  
Villa Maria Single Vineyard Taylors Pass Pinot Noir 2014  
Wet Jacket Rosé Central Otago 2016

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