

Media Release

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Diversity of New Zealand wine rewarded at international competition

Results released today by one of the world's most prestigious wine competitions are a testament to the rising quality and diversity of New Zealand wines.

New Zealand wines beat entries from around the world to win the top Pinot Noir and Sauvignon Blanc Trophies at the 2016 International Wine and Spirit Competition (IWSC), based in the U.K. This year, New Zealand wines were also awarded Gold Medals for styles ranging from sweet Riesling to Syrah, Gewürztraminer to Malbec.

For another year running, New Zealand retained possession of the Pinot Noir Trophy, awarded in 2016 to the Giesen Single Vineyard Ridge Block Marlborough Pinot Noir 2013. New Zealand also scooped the Sauvignon Blanc Trophy with the Kim Crawford Small Parcels Spitfire Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2016.

New Zealand wine showed it could excel with other styles and varieties on the world-stage by winning top awards for a spectrum of Riesling styles, and a Chardonnay and Gewürztraminer in the whites, and a Syrah, Merlot Cabernet and Malbec in the reds.

"New Zealand has established itself as a world-beater in Sauvignon Blanc, and more recently Pinot Noir," commented Jo Burzynska, a long time IWSC judge and a New Zealand panel chair. "However, in all the years that I've been judging at the IWSC, this is one of the widest range of styles I've witnessed winning top awards."

"We are delighted with the results New Zealand wines achieved at IWSC this year. It's great to see a continued focus on premium Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Noir, as well as recognition of the quality coming from a wide range of other up and coming New Zealand wine styles and varieties." said Chris Yorke, Global Marketing Director for New Zealand Winegrowers.

-ENDS-

More information:

Established in 1969, the IWSC was the first competition of its kind, set up to seek out, reward and promote the world's best wines, spirits and liqueurs. Currently receiving entries from around 90 countries, the IWSC is truly international in its reach and recognition. Judged by panels of carefully selected industry experts comprising Masters of Wine, buyers, sommeliers, WSET qualified educators and respected wine journalists, its awards are recognised globally as a badge of quality.

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Gold medals were awarded to the following New Zealand wines:

- Giesen Single Vineyard Ridge Block Marlborough Pinot Noir 2013 – Pinot Noir Trophy
- Kim Crawford Small Parcels Spitfire Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2016 - Sauvignon Blanc Trophy
- Matua Single Vineyard Central Otago Pinot Noir 2013 - Outstanding
- Babich Winemakers' Reserve Hawke's Bay Syrah 2015
- Te Pa Marlborough Chardonnay 2015
- Nobile Icon Marlborough Pinot Noir 2014
- Villa Maria Reserve Clifford Bay Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2015
- Toi Toi Marlborough Reserve Riesling 2014
- Ngatarawa Wines Alwyn Hawkes Bay Merlot Cabernet 2009
- Two Sisters Central Otago Riesling 2010
- Brancott Estate Letter Series 'B' Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2016
- Seifried Winemaker's Collection Sweet Agnes Nelson Riesling 2016
- Spy Valley Marlborough Gewürztraminer 2015
- Matua Single Vineyard Hawke's Bay Malbec 2014