



New Zealand Organic Wine Awards

2018 Results

“We believe
organic viticulture
creates the
potential for a
winemaker to
craft a *superior*
wine”.

*Our goal is to increase the
market share of New Zealand’s
organic wines domestically and
internationally*

Foreword

The New Zealand Organic Wine Awards is an independent wine show dedicated to finding and promoting New Zealand’s best organic wines.

2018 marks the fifth consecutive annual awards since our launch in 2014, during which time we doubled vineyard participation and trebled the number of wines judged.

The New Zealand Organic Wine Awards is New Zealand’s only dedicated wine show for organic wines. In addition to this, we also pride ourselves on our independence, none of our judges are engaged financially or otherwise with any of the vineyards eligible to enter, this level of independence is unprecedented in the wine industry within New Zealand.

The New Zealand Organic Wine Awards is not affiliated with Organic Wine New Zealand, or Wine New Zealand. We are however members of OWNZ and strongly support the work that they undertake.

Furthermore we resolutely agree with OWNZ’s stance on certification for organic vineyards. All wine submitted to the New Zealand Organic Wine Awards must be produced from 100% certified organic grapes.

We also welcome new sponsors to 2018; ‘Riedel’ who are our exclusive glassware provider, ‘Electroluc / Vintec’ who provide us with superior wine refrigeration, and Over The Moon Dairy who provided our judges and volunteers with a fantastic array of cheeses following judging sessions.

For all enquiries please email:
Luke@Organicwineawards.co.nz

For full results and tasting notes visit
www.organicwineawards.co.nz
www.facebook.com/NZOrganicWine
[Twitter.com/NZOrganicWA](https://twitter.com/NZOrganicWA)



Observations

Each passing year, following the judging, we reflect upon the entries we have received and judged and collectively comment on trends and patterns we have observed throughout the course of the award season.

2018 saw the New Zealand Organic Wine Awards receive a 20% increase in participating vineyards from last year. We now have 34 vineyards as part of the New Zealand Organic Wine Awards. Collectively 162 wines were entered, up from 139 in 2017. This growth represents both increased numbers of organic certified vineyards eligible to submit wine, whilst also reflecting the increased credibility the awards has gained through our consistent approach to promoting organic wine over the past 5 years.

We saw particular growth from the Otago region, which has historically not been highly represented in the submissions. Our judges were very impressed with the quality of new submissions from these vineyards.

We noted one absence from our awards this year that has historically been a consistent performer since the awards conception in 2014, and that was Sunset Valley. Sunset Valley's vineyard has been sold, we wish Ian and family the best of luck with future endeavours.

No orange/skin fermented wines were entered to the 2018 awards. This appears to be due to the low rate of success at wine competitions, and also a reduction in the population of the technique.

Of the 162 wines submitted, 88 were awarded medals. 25 Gold, 30 Silver and 33 Bronze. Our overall award rate is consistent with most domestic wine competitions, although we tend to award a higher percentage of gold medals than other competitions. We attribute this to multiple factors, including that we do not limit entries to current vintage- encouraging

wineries to submit their highest performing vintages. Organic Wine growing allows for greater expression of terroir, vintage as well as characteristics not typically associated with a varietal, we believe this impacts the judging of top performing wines, particularly when judging complexity elements, which increase the score, pushing more wines into the 'gold bracket'.

We uphold a strict threshold for gold, silver and bronze medal wines, to ensure that consumers can be assured of a top quality wine from a gold medal winning wine, as well as from silver and bronze. Many great wines are not awarded a medal, however we want to assure our consumers the very best of what New Zealand's organic wines have to offer.

Pinot Noir

Pinot Noir is a traditionally large category, and was 2018's largest varietal class, which has historically been claimed by 'Sauvignon Blanc'. 5 Pinot Noirs were awarded gold medals in what was considered a strong display of some of New Zealand's finest Pinot Noirs. Our Champion Pinot Noir was 'Black Estate's Netherwood Pinot Noir 2015'.

Sauvignon Blanc

3 Sauvignon Blanc's were awarded gold in 2018. Entry numbers for this varietal were down slightly on last year, which may represent a tough 2017 vintage for the varietal as well as increasing diversification from organic wineries. Many high performing entries from previous years have been blended into non organic blends due to low quality yields in 2017 that are not eligible, leading to yet lower numbers. Of the 8% of Sauv Blanc's awarded gold they represent the pinnacle of New Zealand's most planted varietal. Our champion Sauvignon Blanc is "Amisfield Sauvignon Blanc 2017".

Riesling

Riesling was very strong in 2017, with 4 gold medals. 3 of which are produced in Central Otago. We observed crisp, clean, citris characteristics in the majority of high performing reslings this year regardless of the residual sugar levels. These characteristics show a point of difference for a New Zealand Riesling. Our Champion Riesling and Wine of the Show is Carricks 'Josephine Riesling 2017'.

Pinot Gris

Pinot Gris entries were up on previous years, although we awarded less gold medals than last year. A trend we have observed is the prolific introduction of barell fermentation to the varietal, which in New Zealand has tended to be in steel tanks. Without doubt this modification allows for greater complexity, however does have the potential to dull some of the vibrant aromatic characteristics. As with all 'alternative styles', we advocate for clear labelling to ensure consumers are not dissapointed. The 2018 champion Pinot Gris is "Terrace Edge Pinot Gris 2017".

Chardonnay

Chardonnay had a strong showing for the 2018 awards, with both entry numbers and medal numbers up. Inverse to what we observe with Pinot Gris, we have seen Chardonnay's spend less time, or a smaller portion in oak, reducing the buttery characteristics but allowing the citrus and tropical fruit characteristics to shine. The gold medal winners are a combination of traditional style Chardonnay and 'modern' fruity styles. Our champion Chardonnay is "Giesen The Fuder Clayvin Chardonnay 2014".

Rose

Rose is a small, but growing varietal at the Organic Wine Awards. Our champion Rose is "Villa Maria Single Vineyard Braided Gravels Organic Rose"

Alternative white wines

We had an increase in alternative white wines this year, with some notary stand outs. The Organic Wine Awards aren't yet large enough to fill tasting categories for varietals such as Chenin Blanc, Viogner and Sparkling. We do however judge these wines on their merits and apply the same scrutiny as we would any other larger category. Notable mentions include Loveblock's Gewurtzraminer, Amisfield's Chenin Blanc. Our category champion is "Quartz Reef's 2013 Vintage Methode Traditionnelle".

Alternative red wines

We saw a drop in the entrance of alternative red wines this year, with the majority of those entered being Syrah, Merlot or blends. Overall the category did not perform well, with only a single entry earning a gold medal. We attribute this to a tough growing year for Merlot. Our champion Syrah is "Terrace Edge Syrah 2016".

Results

NZ Organic Wine Awards 'Riedel Wine of the Show': Carrick Josephine Riesling 2017

A powerful, yet restrained and elegant wine. Medium sweet, yet balanced with citrus acidity and mineral. The Joesphine impressed our judging panel with its clean, crisp nature and perfectly balanced sweetness. A very smart wine that should continue to improve over the next 5-8 years.

NZ Organic Wine Awards 'Vintec Sustainable Vineyard of the Year': Millton

Our panel was impressed at Millton's continued dedication to Organic and Biodynamic principles. Millton was New Zealand's first organic vineyard and oldest biodynamic vineyard in the Southern Hemisphere. James Millton was integral to the formation of OWNZ and Millton was a founding member of Les Renaissance des Appalation "the return to terroir" a group of biodynamic wineries headed by Nicolas Joly.

NZ Organic Wine Awards 'Riedel Vineyard of the Year': Terrace Edge.

Terrace Edge are a consistent performer at the NZ Organic Wine Awards after achieving Wine Of the Show in 2016, and numerous golds throughout the years, but 2018 was to be the year they finally bagged the illusive 'Riedel Vineyard of the Year' and will have the 'Riedel Decanter Trophy' to prove it. Vineyard of the Year is calculated by points accrued from each Gold, Silver and Bronze medal received, with the tie break (which was required this year) being the vineyard with the higher number of Gold's.

Champion Pinot Noir: Black Estate Netherwood Pinot Noir 2015

Champion Sauvignon Blanc: Amisfield Sauvignon Blanc 2017

Champion Riesling: Carrick Josephine Riesling 2017

Champion Pinot Gris: Terrace Edge Pinot Gris 2017

Champion Chardonnay: Giesen The Fuder Clayvin Chardonnay 2014

Champion Syrah: Terrace Edge Syrah 2016

Champion Rose: Villa Maria Single Vineyard Braided Gravels Organic Rose 2017

Champion Sparkling: Quartz Reef Methode Traditionnelle Blanc de Blancs Vintage 2013

Quartz Reef Methode Traditionnelle Blanc de Blancs Vintage 2013



Gold

The following wines have been awarded the highest accolades available for 2018.

Black Estate Netherwood Pinot Noir 2015

Urlar select Parcels Pinot Noir 2016

Quartz Reef Bendigo Estate Single Ferment 2016

Aurum Madeline Pinot Noir 2015

Giesen Single Vineyard Ridge Block Pinot Noir 2014

Konrad Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc 2017

The Darling Sauvignon Blanc 2017

Amisfield Sauvignon Blanc 2017

Carrick Josephine Riesling 2017

Peregrine WiineRastasburn Riesling 2016

Carrick Bannockburn Riesling 2016

Terrace Edge Liquid Geography Riesling 2017

Giesen The Fuder Clayvin Chardonnay 2014

Millton "Opou" Chardonnay 2016

Muddy Water Chardonnay 2015

Wrights Reserve Gisborne Chardonnay 2016

Terrace Edge Syrah 2016

Terrace Edge Pinot Gris 2017

Huia Pinot Gris 2017

Villa Maria Single Vineyard Braided Gravels Organic Rose 2017

Terrace Edge Rose 2016

Loveblock Marlborough Gewurztraminer 2014

Amisfield Chennin Blanc 2017

Misty Cove Waitaria Organic Barrel Wine 2016

Quartz Reef Methode Traditionnelle Blanc de Blancs Vintage 2013



Silver

The following wines have been awarded a 2018 Silver Medal.

The Darling Pinot Noir 2014
Domaine-Thomson "Explorer" Single Vineyard Central Otago Pinot Noir 2017
Odyssey Marlborough Reserve Iliad Pinot Noir 2016
Aurum Mathilde Pinot Noir 2015
Momo Pinot Noir 2016
Quartz Reef Single Vineyard Pinot Noir 2016
Black Estate Damsteep Pinot Noir 2016
Urlar Sauvignon Blanc 2017
Urlar Select Parcels Sauvignon Blanc 2015
Tapi Sauvignon Blanc 2017
Misty Cove Marlborough Organic Sauvignon Blanc 2017
Little Darling Sauvignon Blanc 2017
Greystone Sauvignon Blanc 2017
Peregrine Sauvignon Blanc 2017
Greystone Riesling 2017
Terrace Edge Classic Riesling 2016
Carrick Bannockburn Chardonnay 2016
Kaimira Estate Brightwater Chardonnay 2016
Te Mania Chardonnay 2016
Urlar Select Parcels Noble Riesling 2017
Richmond Plains Blanc de Noir 2017
Carrick Electric Number 1 2017
Peregrine Rose 2017
Carrick Bannockburn Pinot Gris 2016
Greystone Pinot Gris 2017
The Darling Pinot Gris 2016
Giesen The Fuder Dillons Point Sauvignon Blanc 2013
Amisfield Pinot Gris 2017
Muddy Water Pinotage 2016



Bronze

The following wines have been awarded a 2018 Bronze Medal.

Muddy Water Pinot Noir 2016
Tapi Pinot Noir 2016
Aurum Estate Pinot Noir 2016
Carrick Bannockburn Pinot Noir 2015
Black Estate Home Pinot Noir 2016
Villa Maria Single Vineyard Attorney Organic Pinot Noir 2015
Giesen Single Vineyard Clayvin Pinot Noir 2014
Richmond Plains Sauvignon Blanc 2017
Richmond Plains Blue Moon Sauvignon Blanc 2016
Babich Family Estates Headwaters Organic Sauvignon Blanc 2017
Odyssey Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2017
Loveblock Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2017
Peregrine Riesling 2017
Urlar Riesling 2016
Kaimira Estate Brightwater Riesling Iti Selection 2015
Wrights Estate Gisborne Chardonnay 2017
Black Estate Home Chardonnay 2017
The Darling Chardonnay 2015
Carrick Billet-Doux Pinot Noir 2016
Richmond Plains Syrah 2015
Villa Maria Private Bin Hawkes Bay Organic Merlot 2016
Millton "Te Arai" Chenin Blanc 2016
Huia Gewurztraminer 2016
Richmond Plains Rose 2017
TOSQ Flora 'Entwined' Flora 2016
Peregrine Pinot Gris 2017
Momo Pinot Gris 2017
Quartz Reef Single Vineyard Pinot Gris 2017
Babich Family Estates Headwaters Organic Pinot Gris 2017
Tua Marina Vineyards Arneis 2016
Tua Marina Vineyards Arneis 2017

Sponsors

We are extremely grateful for our sponsors support. Their kind assistance enables us to minimise our administration costs and keep the awards free of admin fee's for the vineyards, consumers and retailers- further helping us fulfil our mission to grow the market share of New Zealand's organic wines.

Riedel New Zealand

Riedel are the exclusive glassware provider for the event, including judging and tasting sessions. Judging will be completed using the Riedel Overture Magnum glasses, which by many are considered to be the industry standard for wine judging.

Tasting notes on the NZ Organic Wine Awards website are conducted using Veritas varietal specific glass to match each wine, of which we will recommend the perfect glass match.

Riedel also sponsor the 'Winery of the Year' and 'Wine of the Show' accolades, the recipient of which will receive a Riedel decanter trophy.

Vintec / Electrolux New Zealand

Vintec (Distributed by Electrolux NZ) craft premium wine refrigeration solutions. We are proud to work alongside Electrolux NZ to ensure all our judged wine is stored in a stable environment and judged at the optimum temperature.

Over The Moon Dairy

Over the Moon Dairy provided our judges with delicious cheese for our judging sessions. Keep an eye out for cheese matches for some of our champion wines.



Luke Thomas
Awards coordinator
Luke@OrganicWineAwards.co.nz
www.OrganicWineAwards.co.nz