



New Zealand Organic Wine Awards

2019 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*

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For full results and tasting notes visit
www.organicwineawards.co.nz
www.facebook.com/NZOrganicWine
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Foreword

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

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.

2019 is our sixth year of operation, and marks our sixth year of sustained growth both in terms of wineries partaking, and the number of wines entered.

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 or in-conversion grapes.

We thank our sponsors Electrolux/Vintec, and Riedel New Zealand. Without your kind assistance we would not be able to operate these awards.

Each year following the awards I look forward to a follow up call from Raymond Chan, to discuss our findings and catch up on the results. I am deeply saddened that I will not have the opportunity to have this conversation this year due to Raymond’s passing in February. Raymond had a great impact on these awards and will be sadly missed but fondly remembered.

Luke Thomas
NZ Organic Wine Awards founder



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.

2019 saw the New Zealand Organic Wine Awards receive a 8% increase in participating vineyards from last year. We now have 37 vineyards as part of the New Zealand Organic Wine Awards. Collectively 183 wines were entered, up from 162 in 2018. This growth comes from new vineyards eligible to enter the awards, and our existing member vineyards having more wines eligible for entry.

Pinot Noir was our largest varietal category, as it was in 2018. The largest growth was with Pinot Gris, which is now our third most populous varietal behind Pinot Noir and Sauvignon Blanc. Riesling also experienced strong growth in numbers.

A few skin fermented wines were entered this year, despite our best efforts to find a judging format that recognises these wines where other awards fail, we struggled to achieve this within our consumer centric judging framework, for this reason a low percentage of the number of skin fermented wines were awarded.

Of the 183 wines submitted, 106 were awarded medals. 34 Gold, 35 Silver and 37 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 or production numbers-encouraging wineries to submit their highest performing vintages and batches. Organic Wine growing allows for greater expression of terrior, 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 to 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

For the second consecutive year Pinot Noir has been our largest class. 5 Pinot Noirs were awarded gold medals, of these wines 3 are Otago grown and 2 from Marlborough. Our Champion Pinot Noir was Domaine Thomson's Surveyor Thomson Pinot Noir 2015.

Sauvignon Blanc

5 Sauvignon Blanc's were awarded gold in 2019, which is an increase from last year. Sauvignon Blanc entry numbers were flat with last year. One again many high performing entries from previous years have been blended into non organic blends due to low quality yields in 2018 that are not eligible. Our champion Sauvignon Blanc is Tapi Sauvignon Blanc 2018.

Riesling

One again riesling was very strong in 2019, continuing the trend in recent years of seeing more entries of this varietal. 5 gold medals were awarded to Riesling, of these 4 originate from Otago. In the main, high performing rieslings this year were crisp and clean with prominent citrus characteristics. Our Champion Riesling is Amisfield's Lowburn Terrace Riesling 2018.

Pinot Gris

As we did in 2018, we have seen an increase in the prominence of Pinot Gris, which is now our third largest varietal category. A higher proportion of Pinot Gris' were awarded medals this year with 4 achieving gold, these gold medals were split 2/2 between Waipara and Marlborough.

The 2018 champion Pinot Gris is "Greystone Pinot Gris 2018"

Chardonnay

Chardonnay entries were slightly lower this year than previously. Although we have observed a continuation of the trend for Chardonnay's to spend less time, or a smaller portion in oak, reducing the buttery characteristics but allowing the citrus and tropical fruit characteristics to shine. For the second consecutive year our champion Chardonnay is "Giesen The Fuder Clayvin Chardonnay", this time the 2015 vintage.

Rose

2019 was our largest intake of Rose since the awards conception, this reflects the growing market for this varietal, and the demand for organic rose, the majority of entries were Pinot Noir Rose as opposed to a Provence style, which leads me to believe Pinot Noir plantations which face stiff competition for NZ market share have been re-purposed for Rose as the varietals popularity grows. Our champion Rose is Terrace Edge Rose 2018.

Syrah

Syrah entries were higher this year, notably due to the addition of Stoneroft, a specialist Syrah winery. Our champion Syrah is Stonecroft's Gimblett Gravels Reserve Syrah 2016.

Results

NZ Organic Wine Awards 'Riedel Wine of the Show':

Domaine Thomson Surveyor Thomson Pinot Noir 2015

A bold, powerful Otago Pinot Noir, complex on the nose and the palate, ripe stonefruit, spice and toasty oak.

Beautiful now, but further develop over the next 6-7 years.

This wine impressed all of our judge's as our standout wine for 2019.

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

Our panel was impressed with the ongoing initiatives introduced at Carrick over the past year. This includes a native planting scheme with the goal of introducing Tui back to the region, as well as furthering there kitchen garden and carpooling schemes.

NZ Organic Wine Awards 'Riedel Winery of the Year': The Darling

The Darling Wines were the recipient of this accolade it its inaugural year back in 2015. Due to consistently high quality wine making and a fastidious dedication to organic production, they become the first winery to repeat the accolade of 'Riedel Winery of the Year' and will have the 'Riedel Decanter Trophy' to prove it.

Champion Pinot Noir: Domaine Thomson Surveyor Thomson Pinot Noir 2015

Champion Sauvignon Blanc: Tapi Sauvignon Blanc 2018

Champion Riesling: Amisfield Lowburn Terrace Riesling 2018

Champion Pinot Gris: Greystone Pinot Gris 2018

Champion Chardonnay: Giesen The Fuder Clayvin Chardonnay 2015

Champion Syrah: Stonecroft Gimblett Gravels Reserve Syrah 2016

Champion Rose: Terrace Edge Rose 2018



Gold

The following wines have been awarded the highest accolades available for 2019.

Tapi Sauvignon Blanc 2018
The Darling Sauvignon Blanc 2018
Amisfield Sauvignon Blanc 2018
Villa Maria Cellar Selection Marlborough Organic Sauvignon Blanc 2018
Rock Ferry 3rd Rock Sauvignon Blanc 2018
Giesen The Fuder Clayvin Chardonnay 2015
Wrights Reserve Chardonnay 2018
The Darling Chardonnay 2015
Greystone Pinot Gris 2018
Terrace Edge Pinot Gris 2017
Tapi Pinot Gris 2018
The Darling Pinot Gris 2018
Stonecroft Gimblett Gravels Reserve Syrah 2016
Terrace Edge Syrah 2015
Domaine Thomson Surveyor Thomson Pinot Noir 2015
The Darling ARNST Pinot Noir 2015
Peregrine Pinot Noir 2017
Giesen Single Vineyard Clayvin Pinot Noir 2015
Quartz Reef Bendigo Estate Single Ferment Pinot Noir 2017
Terrace Edge Rose 2018
Te Mania Pinot Noir Rose 2018
Ake Ake Wild Rose 2018
Villa Maria Single Vineyard Attorney Organic Rose 2018
Amisfield Lowburn Terrace Riesling 2018
Peregrine Rastasburn Riesling 2017
Greystone Riesling 2017
Carrick Josephine Riesling 2018
Amisfield Dry Riesling 2018
Quartz Reef Methode Traditionnelle Non-Vintage Rose
Kaimira Estate Brightwater Gewurztraminer 2016
Terrace Edge Albarino 2018
Richmond Plains Blanc de Noir 2018
Rock Ferry Botrytised Riesling 2017
Stonecroft Gimblett Gravels Cabernet Sauvignon 2016



Silver

The following wines have been awarded a 2019 Silver Medal.

Richmond Plains Sauvignon Blanc 2018
Greystone Sauvignon Blanc 2018
Loveblock Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2018
Clos Henri Bel Echo Sauvignon Blanc 2018
Clos Henri Sauvignon Blanc 2017
Misty Cove Sauvignon Blanc 2018
Millton Opou Chardonnay 2017
Carrick Bannockburn Chardonnay 2017
Te Mania Chardonnay 2018
Rock Ferry 3rd Rock Pinot Gris 2017
Amisfield Pinot Gris 2018
Terrace Edge Pinot Gris 2018
Peregrine Pinot Gris 2018
Terrace Edge Syrah 2016
Te Awanga Estate Wildsong Syrah 2018
Stonecroft Gimblett Gravels Serine Syrah 2016
Aurum Madeleine Pinot Noir 2016
Quartz Reef Single Vineyard Pinot Noir 2017
Clos Henri Pinot Noir 2016
Domaine Thomson Explorer 2018
Rock Ferry Trig Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir 2014
Carrick Bannockburn Pinot Noir 2017
Black Estate Netherwood Pinot Noir 2016
Amisfield Pinot Noir Rose 2018
Richmond Plains Pinot Noir Rose 2018
Carrick Bannockburn Riesling 2018
Terrace Edge Liquid Geography Riesling 2018
Black Estate Damsteep Riesling 2017
Urlar Riesling 2013
Quartz Reef Methode Traditionnelle Non-Vintage Brut
Tua Marina Arneis 2017
Millton Les Trois Enfants 2017
Amisfield Chenin Blanc 2018
Ake Ake Chambourcin 2017
Stonecroft Ruhanui Merlot/ Cabernet Sauvignon 2016



Bronze

The following wines have been awarded a 2019 Bronze Medal.

Clos Henri Petit Clos 2018
Giesen Organic Sauvignon Blanc 2018
Odyssey Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2018
Akarua Sauvignon Blanc 2018
Gumbo & Good Organic 2017
Walnut Block Nutcracker Sauvignon Blanc 2018
Urlar Sauvignon Blanc Select Parcels 2013
Te Awanga Estate One Off 'Underground' Chardonnay 2018
Kaimira Estate Brightwater Chardonnay 2017
Richmond Plains Chardonnay 2017
Carrick Bannockburn Pinot Gris 2018
Loveblock Pinot Gris 2018
Greystone Sand Dollar Pinot Gris 2018
Odyssey Marlborough Pinot Gris 2017
Gumbo & Good Organic Pinot Gris 2018
Stonecroft Gimblett Gravels Undressed Syrah 2018
Stonecroft Gimblett Gravels Crofters Syrah 2018
Terrace Edge Pinot Noir 2016
Tapi Pinot Noir 2017
Black Estate Damsteep Pinot Noir 2016
Villa Maria Platinum Selection Marlborough Organic Pinot Noir 2017
Te Mania Reserve Pinot Noir 2018
The Darling Pinot Noir 2015
Misty Cove Organic Pinot Noir 2018
Aurum Estate Pinot Noir 2017
Fancrest Estate Pinot Noir Rosé
Villa Maria Platinum Selection Marlborough Organic Rose 2018
Fancrest Estate Pinot Noir Reserve 2015
Terrace Edge Classic Riesling 2018
Carrick Dry Riesling 2018
Peregrine Riesling 2018
The Darling ARNST Gewurztraminer 2017
Tua Marina Arneis 2016
Kaimira Estate Brightwater Albarino 2018
Millton Riverpoint Viognier 2016
Villa Maria Private Bin Hawkes Bay Organic Merlot 2017
Kaimira Estate Brightwater Hui Whero 2016

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.



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