



# New Zealand Organic Wine Awards

## 2020 Results



## Foreword

“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*

The New Zealand Organic Wine Awards is an independent wine show committed to discovering and promoting New Zealand's best organic wines.

2020 is our seventh 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 Riedel New Zealand, and Over The Moon Dairy. Without your kind assistance we would not be able to operate these awards.

Thank you for your patience throughout COVID-19, and the disruption that it has caused to the NZ Organic Wine Awards. We appreciate that some of these results may be later than desired, especially for some of the more timed release wines such as 2019 Sauvignon Blanc's, as 2020's are now starting to hit the market. We look forward to resuming our regular schedule for the Library Stock Wine Awards and the 2021 Organic Wine Awards.

Congratulations to all of the wineries featured in the 2020 results. I truly believe these are a selection of the very best wines available in NZ today.

Luke Thomas  
NZ Organic Wine Awards founder

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For full results and tasting notes visit  
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# Observations

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Once again this year saw the New Zealand Organic Wine Awards receive an increase on previous entries. We now have over 40 vineyards as part of the New Zealand Organic Wine Awards. Wine submissions were up around 10% on last year. This growth comes from new vineyards eligible to enter the awards, wineries deciding to enter the awards for the first time, and our existing member vineyards having more wines eligible for entry.

Pinot Noir was one again the largest varietal class. Sauvignon was our second most entered varietal followed by Pinot Gris and Chardonnay.

45% of wines entered originate from Marlborough, a sizeable increase from 2019. 20% of entries were from Central Otago wineries, with a similar number from North Canterbury. Other regions include Hawke's Bay, Gisborne, Northland and Nelson.

For 2020 we issued 46 Gold, 49 Silver and 52 Bronze. 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

As with the previous two seasons, Pinot Noir has been our most substantial varietal category. 10 Pinot Noirs were awarded gold medals, of these wines 4 were grown in Central Otago, 3 in Marlborough, 2 in North Canterbury and one in Nelson. Our 2020 Champion Pinot Noir is Amisfield's Breakneck Reserve Pinot Noir 2017.

## Sauvignon Blanc

6 Sauvignon Blanc's were awarded gold in 2020. Sauvignon Blanc entry numbers were up 20% from 2019, with the largest gain in entries from Marlborough. Our judges noted the continued prevalence of barrel fermented Sauvignon Blanc amongst entries. Our champion Sauvignon Blanc is Walnut Block's Collectables Sauvignon Blanc 2019.

## **Riesling**

After a number of years with strong Riesling entries, 2020 saw a marked drop in numbers, we do not yet know the reason for this. 5 gold medals were awarded to Riesling, of these 2 originate from Otago, 3 from North Canterbury. Riesling had the highest % of Gold Medals per entry than any other varietal. Our Champion Riesling for the second year running is Amisfield's Lowburn Terrace Riesling 2018.

## **Pinot Gris**

Following the trend from the past two seasons, we have seen an increase in the number of Pinot Gris' entered, which is our third largest varietal category. The highest volume of Pinot Gris entries were from Marlborough Wineries. The 2018 champion Pinot Gris and wine of the show is "Peregrine Pinot Gris 2019".

## **Chardonnay**

After a lower Chardonnay turnout in 2019, Chardonnay entries hit a new high in 2020. The majority of entries came from Gisborne and Marlborough wineries, although North Canterbury also showed well. Our 2020 Champion Chardonnay is Seresin's Estate Chardonnay 2018.

## **Rose**

We saw a host of first time Rose entries in 2020, as the varietals popularity grows in NZ. Once again the majority of entries are Pinot Noir Rose's. Our champion Rose is The Glover Family Vineyard's Zephyr MK1 Rose.

## **Syrah**

Two regions submitted Syrah entries for 2020, Hawke's Bay and North Canterbury, with wineries in both regions attaining a gold medal. 2020's Champion Syrah is Terrace Edge's 2015 Syrah.

## **Sparkling**

We saw an increase in the number of sparkling entries this year, including the inclusion of a couple of Pét-nat's. We have this year awarded the Champion Sparkling to Quartz Reef for their Methode Traditionnelle Late Disgorged Vintage 2010, which was released to celebrate 21 years at Bendigo. Sadly only 500 bottles have been released. Without doubt the finest example of a NZ sparkling.

# Results

## **NZ Organic Wine Awards 'RIEDEL Wine of the Show':**

### **Peregrine Pinot Gris 2019**

A beautifully crisp and elegant Pinot Gris, hailing from Central Otago's Peregrine. This wine impressed all of our judge's as our standout wine for 2020 and well worthy of RIEDEL Wine of the Show.

## **NZ Organic Wine Awards 'Sustainable Winery of the Year': Greystone/ Muddy Water**

The Sustainable Vineyard of the Year accolade recognises where a winery has excelled above and beyond SWNZ requirements, and organic certification, to achieve a status that can truly be recognised as environmentally sustainable.

Greystone and Muddy Water have continually strived for sustainable excellence and improve process and initiatives year on year. The level of detail that contributes to Greystone and Muddy Water's extends from the cellar door and the vineyard.

## **NZ Organic Wine Awards 'RIEDEL Winery of the Year': Amisfield**

For the first time the RIEDEL winery of the year accolade heads south to Central Otago. Accruing an impressive 7 gold medals in 2020 from 9 entries is an impressive feat by any standards. The consistently high standard of wine being produced at Amisfield is astounding. Winemaker Greg Lane and assistant Ben Leen, as well as previous winemaker Stephanie Lambert should be lauded for their successful efforts in transitioning Amisfield towards organic certification and exceptional standard of winemaking.

## **Champion Wines**

The below wines have been awarded champion status as the highest scoring wine within their varietal class. Champion wines have been matches with Over The Moon Dairy cheeses.

Champion Pinot Noir: Amisfield Breakneck Reserve Pinot Noir 2017

*Over the Moon Dairy: Black Truffle Brie*

Champion Sauvignon Blanc: Walnut Block Collectables Sauvignon Blanc 2019

*Over the Moon Dairy: Goat Camembert*

Champion Riesling: Amisfield Lowburn Terrace Riesling 2019

*Over the Moon Dairy: Galactic Gold*

Champion Pinot Gris: Peregrine Pinot Gris 2019

*Over the Moon Dairy: Goat Camembert*

Champion Chardonnay: Seresin Estate Chardonnay 2018

*Over the Moon Dairy: Farmhouse Romano*

Champion Sparking: Quartz Reef Methode Traditionnelle Late Disgorged Vintage 2010

*Over the Moon Dairy: Double Delight*

Champion Syrah: Terrace Edge Syrah 2015

*Over the Moon Dairy: Creamy Blue*

Champion Rose: Zephyr MK1 Rose 2019

*Over the Moon Dairy: Double Delight*



## **Gold**

The following wines have been awarded the highest accolades available for 2020.

Zephyr MK1 Rose 2019  
Amisfield Pinot Noir Rosé 2019  
Seresin Estate Chardonnay 2018  
Windrush Empire Chardonnay 2018  
Muddy Water Chardonnay 2016  
Babich Family Estates Organic Marlborough Chardonnay 2018  
Walnut Block Nutcracker Chardonnay 2018  
Giesen The Fuder Single Vineyard Clayvin Chardonnay 2015  
Quartz Reef Methode Traditionnelle Late Disgorged Vintage 2010  
Wrights Entity Methode Traditionnelle 2012  
Amisfield Breakneck Reserve Pinot Noir 2017  
Giesen Single Vineyard Clayvin Pinot Noir  
Greystone Thomas Brothers' Pinot Noir 2018  
The Darling Pinot Noir 2016  
Walnut Block Nutcracker Pinot Noir 2017  
Quartz Reef Bendigo Single Ferment Pinot Noir 2018  
Amisfield Breakneck Reserve Pinot Noir 2017  
Urlar Pinot Noir 2018  
Rock Ferry Trig Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir 2015  
Churton Natural State Pinot Noir 2019  
Greystone Pinot Noir 2017  
Walnut Block Collectables Sauvignon Blanc 2019  
Amisfield Sauvignon Blanc 2019  
Greystone Barrel Fermented Sauvignon Blanc 2018  
The Darling Sauvignon Blanc 2019  
Giesen Organic Sauvignon Blanc 2019  
Tapi Sauvignon Blanc 2019  
Richmond Blanc de Noir 2019  
Peregrine Pinot Gris 2019  
Urlar Pinot Gris 2018  
Amisfield Pinot Gris 2019  
Tapi Pinot Gris 2019  
Quartz Reef Single Vineyard Pinot Gris 2019  
Amisfield Lowburn Terrace Reisling 2019  
Amisfield Dry Reisling 2019  
Greystone Riesling 2018  
Terrace Edge Liquid Geography Riesling 2019  
Terrace Edge Classic Riesling 2019  
Quartz Reef Gruner Veltliner 2019  
Rock Ferry Orchard Vineyard Pinot Blanc 2017  
Terrace Edge Albarino 2019  
Terrace Edge Syrah 2015  
Stonecroft Gimblett Gravels Reserve Syrah 2018  
Giesen Organic Syrah 2016  
Te Awanga Estate One Off Silky Smooth Cabernet Sauvignon 2018



## Silver

The following wines have been awarded a 2020 Silver Medal.

Villa Maria Platinum Selection Hawkes Bay Organic Rose 2019  
Carrick Bannockburn Rose 2019  
Greystone Chardonnay 2018  
The Darling Chardonnay 2015  
Rock Ferry The Corners Vineyard Chardonnay 2018  
Wrights Wines Reserve Chardonnay 2016  
Carrick EBM Chardonnay 2017  
Quartz Reef Methode Traditionnelle Rose NV  
Giesen Organic Pinot Noir 2016  
Villa Maria Single Vineyard The Attorney Pinot Noir 2017  
Peregrine Pinot Noir 2018  
Tapi Pinot Noir 2018  
Quartz Reef Single Vineyard Pinot Noir 2017  
Babich Family Estates Organic Marlborough Pinot Noir 2017  
Terrace Edge Pinot Noir 2016  
Giesen Single Vineyard Ridge Block Pinot Noir 2015  
Te Mania Reserve Pinot Noir 2017  
Domaine-Thomson "Rows 1-37" Single Vineyard Pinot Noir 2017  
Seresin Estate Leah Pinot Noir 2017  
Muddy Water Pinot Noir 2017  
Greystone Pinot Noir 2018  
Aurum Madeleine Pinot Noir 2016  
Clos Henri Sauvignon Blanc 2018  
Matua Organic Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2019  
Urlar Sauvignon Blanc 2018  
Seresin Estate Sauvignon Blanc 2018  
Clos Henri Bel Echo Sauvignon Blanc 2018  
Yealands Estate Single Block M2 Sauvignon Blanc 2018  
Massey Dacta Sauvignon Blanc 2019  
Bob - Short for Kate Sauvignon Blanc 2019  
Loveblock Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2019  
Walnut Block Nutcracker Sauvignon Blanc 2019  
Odyssey Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2019  
Villa Maria Platinum Selection Marlborough Organic Sauvignon Blanc 2019  
Windrush Sauvignon Blanc 2019  
Odyssey Marlborough Pinot Gris 2019  
Loveblock Marlborough Pinot Gris 2019  
The Darling Pinot Gris 2019  
Terrace Edge Pinot Gris 2019  
Greystone Pinot Gris 2019  
Misty Cove Ella Maria 2019  
Misty Cove Organic Sauvignon Blanc 2019  
Stonecroft Gimblett Gravels Old Vine Gewurztraminer 2015  
Stonecroft Gimblett Gravels Viognier 2019  
Churton Viognier 2016  
Amisfield Chenin Blanc 2019  
Babich Family Estates Organic Marlborough Albarino 2019  
Rock Ferry The Corners Vineyard Gruner Veltliner 2018  
Terrace Edge 2018 Syrah  
Stonecroft Gimblett Gravels Serine Syrah 2018  
Stonecroft Gimblett Gravels Crofters Syrah 2019  
Stonecroft Gimblett Gravels Cabernet Sauvignon 2018  
Stonecroft Gimblett Gravels Undressed Merlot 2019  
Muddy Water Pinotage 2017  
Terrace Edge Saint Laurent 2018



## **Bronze**

The following wines have been awarded a 2020 Bronze Medal.

Te Mania Rose 2019  
Terrace Edge Rose 2019  
Natural Wine Co Chardonnay 2019  
Wrights Estate Chardonnay 2017  
Wrights Reserve Chardonnay 2018  
Kennedy Point Vineyard Chardonnay Gisborne 2018  
Te Mania Chardonnay 2018  
Clos Henri Petit Clos Pinot Noir 2019  
Aurum Organic Pinot Noir 2018  
Aurum Mathilde Organic Pinot Noir 2017  
Windrush Pinot Noir 2018  
The Darling ARNST Pinot Noir 2016  
Bob - Short for Kate 2019  
Carrick Bannockburn Pinot Noir 2017  
Rock Ferry 3rd Rock Pinot Noir 2016  
Richmond Plains Pinot Noir 2018  
Misty Cove Organic Pinot Noir 2019  
Cable Bay Sauvignon Blanc Cinders Vineyard 2019  
Villa Maria Cellar Selection Marlborough Organic Sauvignon Blanc 2019  
Villa Maria Private Bin Marlborough Organic Sauvignon Blanc 2019  
Churton Sauvignon Blanc 2019  
Clos Henri Petit Clos Sauvignon Blanc 2019  
Allan Scott Nelson Organic Sauvignon Blanc 2019  
Loveblock Marlborough Orange Sauvignon Blanc 2019  
Natural Wine Co Organic Gisborne Sauvignon Blanc 2020  
Carrick Bannockburn Sauvignon Blanc 2018  
Rock Ferry 3rd Rock Sauvignon Blanc 2019  
Richmond Plains Sauvignon Blanc 2019  
Te Mania Sauvignon Blanc 2019  
The Darling ARNST Sauvignon Blanc 2018  
Babich Family Estates Organic Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2019  
Greystone Barrel Fermented Sauvignon Blanc 2019  
Seresin Estate Pinot Gris 2018  
Ake Ake Pinot Gris 2019  
Te Mania Pinot Gris 2018  
Babich Family Estates Organic Marlborough Pinot Gris 2019  
Greystone Petillant Naturel 2019  
Ake Ake Quatre Anmins 2019  
Urlar Riesling 2018  
Stonecroft Gimblett Gravels Gewurztraminer  
Babich Family Estates Organic Marlborough Gruner Veltliner 2018  
Stonecroft Gimblett Gravels Undressed Syrah 2019  
Villa Maria Platinum Selection Hawkes Bay Organic Cabernet Sauvignon 2018  
Ake Ake Barrel 201 2019



## 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.

### **Over The Moon Dairy**

Over The Moon Dairy kindly provided our volunteer judges with cheese to enjoy after judging sessions. Over The Moon Dairy produce some of NZ's finest cheese's and have been awarded over 120 medals and trophies from domestic and international shows. Our judges enjoyed a huge range of fantastic cheeses, although can highly recommend the Goat Camembert and the Black Truffle Brie as our stand outs!

Champion wines have been paired with an Over The Moon Dairy Cheese. Further cross promotion will follow throughout the year.



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