



Aotearoa New Zealand Organic Wine Awards

2021 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 Aotearoa NZ Organic Wine Awards is an independent wine show committed to discovering and promoting New Zealand’s best organic wines.

2021 is our eighth year of operation. Once again the number of entries has grown, signifying the huge momentum NZ Organic wines have.

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

Furthermore we resolutely agree with OWINZ’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.

Following a difficult year, and an especially testing harvest, in 2020- I hope the results of the 2020 vintage wines provide some compensation that all the extra harvest-time effort of social distanced picking, reduced headcount and contact tracing, was well and truly worthwhile.

I’m heartened to see the continued growth of the organic wine sector in New Zealand. The momentum is well and truly with us, and long may it continue.

Luke Thomas
NZ Organic Wine Awards founder

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For full results and tasting notes visit
www.organicwineawards.co.nz
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Observations

For the eighth consecutive year we have experienced growth in entry volumes at the Organic Wine Awards. As with the trend in 2020 we have witnessed a rise in the number of participating wineries from the Central Otago Region. This could be due to the high prevalence of Central Otago certified organic vineyards, although could also in part be due to the high levels of success Central Otago wines enjoy at the awards.

Winery entrants were up 5%, and total wines entered up 10%. A number of wineries that have previously entered wine have chosen to expand their entry to encompass more wines. This could be to capitalise on a good vintage, build on existing success, or as more vineyard is converted to organic.

A few previous entrants chose not to enter, in the main, timing was the issue. The entry is around harvest time and small wineries are very busy, as well as a time many wineries have lower stocks of wine. We will consult with entrants to ascertain if the timing is still working for everybody.

North Canterbury dominated the champion wines this year, taking 5 of the possible 8 champion trophies.

For 2021 we issued 8 Champion, 41 Gold (excluding champions), 53 Silver and 56 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'. It is also worth noting that the entry standard for the Aotearoa Organic Wine Awards tends to be higher than many other awards, owing to the fact that many 'Premium NZ Wineries' are also organic. This logic correlates with over-representation of organic wineries in lists such as Real

Review Top Wineries and the NZ Fine Wines selection.

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 saw the largest uptake in entries this year, despite already being the largest varietal class for the past 3 awards seasons. The reason for this is most likely the prevalence of Central Otago wineries at the awards. 11 Gold medals were awarded to Pinot Noir's, of which 6 are from Central Otago, 3 from Marlborough and 2 from North Canterbury. Vintages ranged from 2016 through to 2020, with both of these vintages being represented in the gold medal awards. The Champion Pinot Noir is Rippon's "Rippon" Mature Vine Pinot Noir 2017.

Sauvignon Blanc

6 Sauvignon Blanc's were awarded gold in 2021. SB entry volumes were consistent with 2020. Of the 6 gold medals, 3 are from Marlborough wineries, 2 from Central Otago and 1 from Nelson. The champion Sauvignon Blanc is Amisfield's Sauvignon Blanc 2020.

Riesling

Riesling entries were up for 2021, although still not at levels seen pre-2020. 5 Riesling's were awarded Gold medals this year. The Champion Riesling was Terrace Edge's Liquid Geography 2020.

Pinot Gris

Pinot Gris is the fourth most popular varietal, slipping just below entry volumes for Chardonnay, despite an increase in entries this year. 4 Pinot Gris' were awarded gold, 2 from Central Otago, 1 from Nelson and 1 from North Canterbury. This year's Champion Pinot Gris is Terrace Edge's 2020 Pinot Gris.

Chardonnay

For 2021 Chardonnay has overtaken Pinot Gris as the third largest varietal class. This is largely due to the addition of some new wineries to the awards who specialise in the varietal. 6 Chardonnay's were awarded gold. The Champion was Greystone's Chardonnay 2019.

Rose

The prevalence of Rose continues to grow at the Aotearoa Organic Wine Awards. Rose entries were up nearly 20%. The majority gold medal rose's originate from Central Otago, however the champion is North Canterbury's Terrace Edge Rose 2020.

Syrah

Syrah entry volumes were flat with 2020. Gold medals were issued to 3 Syrah's, with one each going to North Canterbury, Hawke's Bay and Marlborough. The 2021 Champion

Syrah is Greystone's 2018 Syrah.

Sparkling

Once again Sparkling entries have been split between Methode Traditionelle and Pet Nat. Despite no Pet Nat's being awarded gold, it was acknowledged that the standard was very high amongst all sparkling entries. The champion Sparkling is Quartz Reef's Methode Traditionelle Vintage 2015 Blanc de Blancs.

Results

NZ Organic Wine Awards ‘RIEDEL Wine of the Show’: Quartz Reef Methode Traditionnelle Vintage 2015 Blanc de Blancs

A truly sensational wine, this is a world class Methode Traditionelle. Without hesitation the finest homegrown sparkling wine available in New Zealand today. You will have to spend a significant amount more to procure a bottle of ‘Champagne’ that will stack up to the quality on offer here.

NZ Organic Wine Awards ‘Sustainable Winery of the Year’: Carrick Winery

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.

Carrick has continually strives for environmental excellence. Whether regenerating native habitats, an extensive on-site vegetable garden to cater for the fantastic restaurant or employing a Hybrid vehicle policy for management team. Carrick makes meaningful gains with regard to their environmental responsibilities.

NZ Organic Wine Awards ‘RIEDEL Winery of the Year’: Terrace Edge

For only the second time, a winery has achieved a second ‘RIEDEL Organic Winery of the Year’ accolade. Terrace Edge first received the honor in 2018, now follow up with a repeat 3 years later. Receiving 3 varietal champions, and a further 3 Gold Medals, the Family owned and operated North Canterbury vineyard is a well deserving recipient.

Champion Wines

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

Champion Pinot Noir: Rippon “Rippon” Mature Vine Pinot Noir
Over the Moon Dairy: Creamy Blue

Champion Sauvignon Blanc: Amisfield Sauvignon Blanc 2020
Over the Moon Dairy: Goat Camembert

Champion Riesling: Terrace Edge Liquid Geography Riesling 2020
Over the Moon Dairy: Galactic Gold

Champion Pinot Gris: Terrace Edge Pinot Gris 2020
Over the Moon Dairy: OMG Brie

Champion Chardonnay: Greystone Chardonnay 2019
Over the Moon Dairy: OMG Brie

Champion Sparking: Quartz Reef Methode Traditionnelle Vintage 2015 Blanc de Blancs
Over the Moon Dairy: Double Delight

Champion Syrah: Greystone Syrah 2018
Over the Moon Dairy: Creamy Blue

Champion Rose: Terrace Edge Rose 2020
Over the Moon Dairy: Burgandy Moon



Gold

The following wines have been awarded the highest accolades available for 2021.

Rippon "Rippon" Mature Vine Pinot Noir 2017
Amisfield Pinot Noir 2018
Muddy Water Pinot Noir 2018
Gibbston Valley China Terrace Pinot Noir 2019
Gibbston Valley Le Maitre Pinot Noir 2019
Giesen Single Vineyard Ridge Block Pinot Noir 2016
Churton Natural State Pinot Noir 2020
Windrush Pinot Noir 2019
Terrace Edge Pinot Noir 2016
Quartz Reef Single Vineyard Pinot Noir 2019
Two Paddocks The Fusilier 777 Pinor Noir 2019
Terrace Edge Rose 2020
Amisfield Pinot Noir Rosé 2020
Villa Maria Single Vineyard The Attorney Rose 2020
Domaine Thomson 'Surveyor Thomson' Pinot Rosè 2020
Rock Ferry Orchard Vineyard Pinot Rose 2020
Zephyr MK1 Rose 2020
Greystone Chardonnay 2019
Giesen Single Vineyard Clayvin Chardonnay 2016
Gibbston Valley China Terrace Chardonnay 2019
Wrights Vineyard and Winery Gisborne Chardonnay Reserve 2018
Muddy Water Chardonnay 2018
The Darling Chardonnay 2016
Terrace Edge Liquid Geography Riesling 2020
Amisfield Lowburn Terrace Riesling 2020
Gibbston Valley Red Shed Riesling 2020
Two Paddocks Dry Riesling 2019
Carrick Bannockburn Riesling 2019
Astrolabe Southern Valleys Sec Chenin Blanc 2019
Amisfield Chenin Blanc 2020
Amisfield Pinot Gris 2020
Terrace Edge Pinot Gris 2020
Richmond Plains Pinot Gris 2019
Gibbston Valley School House Pinot Gris 2020
Amisfield Sauvignon Blanc 2020
Golden Mile Sauvignon Blanc 2020
Nanny Goat Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc 2020
Tapi Sauvignon Blanc 2020
Richmond Plains Sauvignon Blanc 2020
The Darling Sauvignon Blanc 2020
Quartz Reef Methode Traditionnelle Vintage 2015 Blanc de Blancs
Quartz Reef Methode Traditionnelle NV Rose
Greystone Syrah 2018
Judge Rock "The Alibi" Blanc de Noir 2020
Stonecroft Gimblett Gravels Gewurztraminer 2020
Giesen Single Vineyard Clayvin Syrah 2019
Terrace Edge Syrah 2019
Terrace Edge St Laurent 2018
Judge Rock "The Verdict" Port 2019



Silver

The following wines have been awarded a 2021 Silver Medal.

The Darling Pinot Noir 2016
The Darling ARNST Pinot Noir 2016
Terrace Edge Pinot Noir 2018
Tapi Pinot Noir 2019
Peregrine Pinot Noir 2019
Amisfield Breakneck Reserve Pinot Noir 2019
Carrick Bannockburn Pinot Noir 2018
Greystone Thomas Brothers Pinot Noir 2019
Greystone Pinot Noir 2018
Te Mania Reserve Pinot Noir 2019
Gibbston Valley School House 2019
Giesen Single Vineyard Clayvin Pinot Noir 2017
The Darling Pinot Noir Rose 2020
Judge Rock "Innocent" Rose 2019
Richmond Plains Rose 2020
Natural Wine Co Gisborne Pinot Noir Rose 2020
Carrick Rose 2020
Villa Maria Earth Garden Rose 2020
Carrick Bannockburn Chardonnay 2018
Seresin Estate Chardonnay 2019
Babich Family Estates Organic Marlborough Chardonnay 2019
Giesen Organic Chardonnay 2016
Gibbston Valley China Terrace B95 Chardonnay 2019
Windrush Empire Chardonnay 2020
Rippon "Rippon" Mature Vine Riesling 2019
Amisfield Dry Riesling 2020
Terrace Edge Classic Riesling 2020
Gibbston Valley School House 2019
Peregrine Pinot Gris 2020
Richmond Plains Pinot Gris 2020
Loveblock Marlborough Pinot Gris 2020
Tapi Pinot Gris 2020
Stoneleigh Organic Sauvignon Blanc 2020
Walnut Block Collectables Sauvignon Blanc 2020
Peregrine Sauvignon Blanc 2020
Greystone Sauvignon Blanc 2019
Seresin Estate Marama Sauvignon Blanc 2018
Walnut Block Nutcracker Sauvignon Blanc 2019
Babich Family Estates Organic Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2020
Te Mania Sauvignon Blanc 2020
Loveblock Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2020
Wrights Winery Methode Traditionnelle 2012
Quartz Reef Methode Traditionnelle NV Brut
Giesen Organic Syrah 2016
Terrace Edge Chosen Barrels Syrah 2019
Muddy Water Pinotage 2018
Terrace Edge Albarino 2020
Carrick Pinot Blanc 2019
Judge Rock "Guilty" Pet-Nat 2019
Stonecroft Gimblett Gravels Serine Syrah 2019
Rippon Gamay 2019
Villa Maria Earth Garden Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon 2019



Bronze

The following wines have been awarded a 2021 Bronze Medal.

Amisfield Pinot Noir 2019
Greystone Vineyard Ferment 2019
Judge Rock "Your Honour" Pinot Noir 2019
Golden Mile Pinot Noir 2020
Walnut Block Collectables Pinot Noir 2019
Giesen Organic Pinot Noir 2017
Domaine Thomson 'Explorer' Single Vineyard Pinot Noir 2019
Ara Resolute Pinot Noir 2017
Te Mania Pinot Noir 2019
Rock Ferry 3rd Rock Central Otago Pinot Noir 2018
Terrace Edge Chosen Barrels Pinot Noir 2018
Clos Henri Pinot Noir 2017
Quartz Reef Bendigo Estate Single Ferment Pinot Noir 2019
Villa Maria Earth Garden Pinot Noir 2019
Walnut Block Nutcracker Pinot Noir 2019
Babich Family Estates Organic Marlborough Pinot Noir 2019
Two Paddocks Pinot Noir 2019
Richmond Plains Pinot Noir 2019
Loop Rd. Pinot Noir 2020
Villa Maria Single Vineyard The Attorney Pinot Noir 2017
Carrick Cairnmuir Terraces EBM Chardonnay 2018
Te Mania Chardonnay 2019
Te Mania Reserve Chardonnay 2018
Stoneleigh Organic Chardonnay 2020
Wrights Vineyard & Winery Reserve Chardonnay Gisborne 2020
Peregrine Chardonnay 2019
Richmond Plains Chardonnay 2019
Seresin Estate Chardonnay Reserve 2018
Gibbston Valley China Terrace 2020
Carrick Dry Riesling 2019
Picnic by Two Paddocks Riesling 2019
Natural Wine Co Gisborne Pinot Gris 2020
Stoneleigh Organic Pinot Gris 2020
Quartz Reef Single Vineyard Pinot Gris 2020
Te Mania Pinot Gris 2020
Golden Mile Pinot Gris 2020
Carrick Bannockburn Pinot Gris 2018
Babich Family Estates Organic Marlborough Pinot Gris 2020
Rock Ferry 3rd Rock Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2020
Clos Henri Sauvignon Blanc 2019
Loveblock Marlborough TEE Sauvignon Blanc 2020
Carrick Bannockburn Sauvignon Blanc 2019
Matua Organic Sauvignon Blanc 2020
Churton Sauvignon Blanc 2019
Villa Maria Earth Garden Sauvignon Blanc 2020
The Darling ARNST Sauvignon Blanc 2018
Giesen Organic Sauvignon Blanc 2020
Ara Resolute Sauvignon Blanc 2019
Zephyr Sauvignon Blanc 2020
Seresin Estate Sauvignon Blanc 2019
Richmond Plains Blanc de Noir 2020
Zephyr Gewurztraminer 2020
Seresin Estate Chiaroscuro 2019
Stonecroft Gimblett Gravels Undressed Syrah 2020
Ake Ake Reserve Chambourcin 2020
Stonecroft Gimblett Gravels Cabernet Sauvignon 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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