
**Blackenbrook Vineyard receives top award:
Trophy and Gold for Blackenbrook Reserve Pinot Gris 2008
from the New Zealand International Wine Show 2008**

Daniel Schwarzenbach, winemaker and co-owner of Blackenbrook Vineyard was proud to receive the prestigious Trophy for Best Pinot Gris at the Awards Dinner of the New Zealand International Wine Show 2008, held in Auckland last Saturday.

Pinot Gris has been his favourite grape variety for years. To pursue his passion he worked as a cellar hand for Domaine Zind-Humbrecht in Alsace, one of the top Pinot Gris producers worldwide.

After establishing Blackenbrook Vineyard, Pinot gris always took centre stage: the most promising slopes were planted with the latest Pinot Gris clones, soil and vines are managed carefully and most of the vineyard work is done by hand.

The fruit for the Trophy-winning Pinot Gris is 100% estate-grown. It was harvested at optimum ripeness with exceptional flavours and intensity. During the entire winemaking process in the gravity-fed winery this wine stood out. Consequently it was released as the very first Blackenbrook Reserve Pinot Gris. It is a stylish, finely poised wine with fragrant rich aromas of stone fruit, pears and spice, an excellent mouthfeel and an oily, medium-dry finish.

This top award once more confirms Nelson's ability to produce outstanding Aromatics.

This is the third Trophy for the quality-focused boutique vineyard in coastal Tasman: Last year the Blackenbrook Sauvignon Blanc 2007 turned heads by receiving two Trophies from two of the most significant wine competitions in New Zealand.

It is extra-ordinary for such a small vineyard to win a Trophy – let alone three of them for different varieties in two consecutive years. These top awards usually go to large wineries with several different vineyard sites and latest winemaking tools available to them.

With 2273 entries, the New Zealand International Wine Show 2008 was the largest wine competition ever held in New Zealand and in fact one of the largest international wine shows held in the southern hemisphere.

Larry McKenna and Peter Cowley acted as joint chair of judges with a team of 24 senior judges involved.

Blackenbrook wines are available from selected Fine Wine Shops or can be ordered directly from www.blackenbrook.co.nz.