

# Blackenbrook

VINEYARD

Nelson Wines that WOW!

News Release

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*For Immediate Release*

## **Gold Medal Haul for Nelson Vineyards**

Blackenbrook family vineyard in Tasman is one of four Nelson vineyards to bring home a Gold Medal from the prestigious Romeo Bragato Wine Awards that were announced over the weekend.

The Romeo Bragato Awards are a key New Zealand wine award that celebrates the quality of grape and the contribution of the grape grower in particular, as opposed to other awards where it's the winemaker that is recognised. 36 gold medals were awarded nationally across 18 categories.

Blackenbrook took a Gold Medal for its Pinot Gris 2008 as well as a silver medal for their Pinot Gris 2009.

Daniel Schwarzenbach, Blackenbrook co-owner, viticulturist and winemaker says they are thrilled to win a Gold and Silver for their Pinot Gris, as aromatics are a particular passion for them.

"Pinot Gris is my favourite variety and I worked really hard to keep all our vineyard and winemaking processes as gentle and non-invasive as possible to let the grapes talk. We don't fine and it's about making decisions in the vineyard that impact on what happens in the bottle.

Daniel congratulates his fellow viticulturists at the three other local vineyards who also took out a gold medal: Kina Beach Reserve Chardonnay 2007; Renato Pinot Gris 2008 and Golden Hills Estate Pinot Gris 2009.

"I feel that these awards show how good aromatics in the Nelson region can be, a testimony to our climate, soil and vineyard management techniques."

Blackenbrook Vineyard continues to collect accolades for their wines.

Earlier this year, their Sauvignon Blanc 2008 was awarded a silver medal from Expovina, a top wine award in Switzerland. Last year their Reserve Pinot Gris 2008 was awarded Gold and Trophy at the New Zealand International Wine Show. Two years ago Blackenbrook Vineyard featured at Bragato wine awards winning both the gold medal and a trophy for their Sauvignon Blanc 2007.

"It's great that a competition such as these Bragato Wine Awards recognises excellence in vineyard management. That reflects our philosophy at Blackenbrook. It's a total package that produces great results, which is why we choose to be hands-on from the vine to the winery," says Daniel Schwarzenbach.

Blackenbrook is a family vineyard located in Tasman, Nelson. Their 20 hectare block produces 7 wine varieties, many of which have won awards. The vineyard and gravity-fed winery are run as sustainably as possible.

Daniel & Ursula Schwarzenbach

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