



## **New Zealand named best Sauvignon Blanc and Syrah producer by the International Wine Challenge**

The most rigorously judged wine competition in the world, the International Wine Challenge, releases its 2019 results today and, after two weeks of blind tasting by 400 judges from 38 countries, it has crowned New Zealand as home to the best Sauvignon Blanc and Syrah.

### **Sauvignon Blanc global success**

Husband and wine team, Neal and Judy Ibbotson of Saint Clair Family Estate were not only awarded the best Sauvignon Blanc in New Zealand, but also in the competition, with the Saint Clair Wairau Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 2018 winning the New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc Trophy and the International Sauvignon Blanc Trophy.

Another couple, Simon Kelly and Tamra Kelly-Washington, were also triple winners, after striking Gold with both a Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Their Kelly Washington Gibbston Pinot Noir 2017 won the Central Otago Trophy and New Zealand Pinot Noir Trophy, while their Kelly Washington Organic Chardonnay 2017 won the Marlborough Chardonnay Trophy.

Villa Maria also won three Trophies with its Villa Maria Single Vineyard Keltern Chardonnay 2017:

- Hawke's Bay Chardonnay Trophy
- New Zealand Chardonnay Trophy
- New Zealand White Trophy

### **World beating Shiraz**

Family-owned Te Awanga Estate won three Trophies for its Trademark Syrah 2015 including the sought-after International Syrah Trophy, making it the best Syrah at the International Wine Challenge 2019.

All in all, New Zealand's winemakers put in another strong performance – winning a total of 23 Gold, 113 Silver and 230 Bronze medals, to finish sixth in the international league table.

Peter McCombie MW, IWC co-chair, commented:

“There isn't much Syrah planted in New Zealand but what there is makes world-class wine. Stylistically closer to Rhone Valley than Barossa Valley, we expect New Zealand Syrah to have abundant fruit and remarkable freshness. Te Awanga, winner of the New Zealand Red Trophy, is a brilliant example of this style.

“Six Gold medals for Pinot Noir from Central Otago confirm the region's status as number one for Pinot, though two for Marlborough and another for Martinborough remind us the New Zealand has diverse terroirs for the world's most intriguing red grape.”

### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

For interview opportunities or photography, please contact [beth.terry@thisisphipps.com](mailto:beth.terry@thisisphipps.com)

The International Wine Challenge

In its 36<sup>th</sup> year, the International Wine Challenge (IWC) is accepted as the world's finest and most meticulously judged competition. The IWC assesses every wine 'blind' and judges each for its faithfulness to style, region and vintage. Each medal-winning wine is tasted on at least three separate occasions by a minimum of 12 different judges including Masters of Wine. Awards include medals (Gold, Silver, Bronze) and Commended awards. The IWC is committed to helping consumers discover great wine, and the medals displayed on winning bottles offer a trusted guarantee of quality.

For more information on the IWC and full results, please contact the IWC team at Phipps [iwc@thisishipps.com](mailto:iwc@thisishipps.com) : +44 (0) 20 7759 7400 : 17 Exeter Street, London, WC2E 7DU, UK