

## Gisborne Regional Wine Awards 2011

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A hand-picked attention-stacked chardonnay has come up trumps as supreme wine of show at the inaugural GisVin Awards Dinner for the Gisborne Regional Wine Awards.

Villa Maria's Reserve Barrique Fermented Gisborne Chardonnay 2009 headed off 137 other wines to take top honours at It's a wine that has received plenty of accolades in the past, including five stars from both Cuisine and Winestate magazines over the past year. Earlier vintages from the same vineyards have won some of the nation's top awards. Judges Jane Skilton, Yvonne Lorkin, Simon Nunns, Larry McKenna, Simon Waghorn, Ralph Kyte-Powell and Ant McKenzie, chose the 2009 Chardonnay from the 13 gold medal winners of the show.

Chief judge, Master of Wine Jane Skilton said the beauty of such a show highlighted any region's strengths and weaknesses, so it was somewhat fitting that the champion of show was a chardonnay.

"Shows like this give a great overview and very clear picture of what is happening in the region," she says. "As well as a chance to experience new emerging grape varieties, it's an opportunity to see the innovative styles being put into More than 200 people packed into Wharf Shed 3 at the black tie awards dinner where MC Mark Leishman entertained them all, and chef Darryn Clyne matched divine dishes with the top wines.

On hand to receive the top trophy for the supreme wine was Villa Maria's Gisborne viticulturist Tony Green, who actually planted some of the vines responsible for producing the grapes for the barrique fermented 2009 chardonnay. It seems no expense is spared in creating this top drop. Around 40 tonnes of grapes are hand picked from the McIldowie, McDiarmid Hill and Katoa vineyards, with only the best selected for the winemakers to work with.

"These are excellent vineyards," says Mr Green. "They're on hill sides, so there is no water lying around, have good The 2009 vintage is remembered for being the second driest since 1998, with a high number of growing degree days The Katoa and McDiarmid Hill vineyards were planted around 14 years ago, with the McIldowie only on its second harvest. The Millton Vineyard picked up a number of awards, including the very special Bill Irwin Trophy – which celebrates a new initiative representing Gisborne's unique entrepreneurial nature – for their Crazy by Nature Shotberry Chardonnay 2010. Judges said it had been a clear winner for a number of characteristics including the symbolic icons on the packaging, the clever use of words and that it is a new angle on a favoured Gisborne varietal.

"Wine today has to be as much a marketing story to entice your consumer in," says Jane Skilton.

Wines entered into the event had to be at least 85% local grapes, with the top ones being promoted to wine publications and journalists over the coming year.

Show organisers were chuffed at the support for the new event from both wineries and the wider industry through "We set out to create a competition that promotes the excellence in the winemaking of all Gisborne grape varieties," says contest director Prue Younger. "It's done that and more, and there is no doubt this is going to become a highlight of the Organisers and judges were most impressed with the array and quality of varietals in the show.

From the 137-strong entries 12 varietal winners were found, with three overall selections winners and five trophy winners. Honours were spread evenly across the region – from the small boutique style vineyards and wineries, right through to the Judges were treated to an exclusive vineyard and cellar door tour of the district once their formal duties were finished. "This event is much more than a wine competition – it's an opportunity to provide visiting judges and wine media with a true and unique expression of our beautiful wine region".

## TROPHY RESULTS

**Supreme Wine of Show** (sponsored by Gisvin Limited): Villa Maria Reserve Barrique Fermented Gisborne Chardonnay

**Highest Awarded Wine Company** (sponsored by Eastland Community Trust): Lion Nathan.

**Best Value Wine Under \$20** (sponsored by Indevin): Coopers Creek Gewurztraminer 2010.

**Bill Irwin Trophy** (sponsored by Villa Maria Estate): The Millton Vineyard Crazy by Nature – Shotberry Chardonnay 2010.

**Lead Viticulturist Trophy** (sponsored by Farmlands/Skeltons): David Bullivant (Indevin) and Sarah Phillips (Indevin).

**Overall White Varietals Selection** (sponsored by Eastland Community Trust): TW Wines Estate Chardonnay 2010, Villa

Maria Reserve Barrique Fermented Gisborne Chardonnay 2009, The Millton Vineyard Riverpoint Viognier 2010, The

Millton Vineyard Clos Samuel Viognier Special Berry Selection 2010, Huntaway Reserve Pinot Gris 2010, Coopers Creek

**Overall Red Varietals Selection** (sponsored by Alexander Transport): Spade Oak Syrah 2009, Longbush Bird Series Syrah

2009, Matawhero Merlot 2010, Kirkpatrick Estate Winery Wild Rose 2009, Kirkpatrick Estate Winery Reserve Malbec 2010,

2009, Coopers Creek Limited Reserve Release Gisborne

Malbec 2010, The Millton Vineyard Riverpoint Viognier 2010, The Millton Vineyard Clos

Samuel Viognier Special Berry Selection 2010, Huntaway Reserve Pinot Gris 2010, Coopers Cook Gewurztraminer 2010.

## Class Category:

**Pinot Gris** (sponsored by Flavour): Huntaway Reserve Pinot Gris 2010.

**Gewürztraminer** (sponsored by Weatherells Transport): Coopers Creek Gewurztraminer 2010.

**Sauvignon Blanc** (sponsored by Crown Sheetmetals): Hihī Sauvignon Blanc 2010.

**Viognier** (sponsored by EIT Tairawhiti): The Millton Vineyard Riverpoint Viognier 2010

**Rose** (sponsored by Eastland Group): Kirkpatrick Estate Winery Wild Rose 2009

**Merlot** (sponsored by Martins Event & Party Hire): Matawhero Merlot 2010

**Sparkling** (sponsored by Lion Nathan): Te Hana Sparkling Reserve Cuvee NV

**Chardonnay** (sponsored by Label & Litho): Villa Maria Reserve Barrique Fermented Gisborne Chardonnay 2009.

**Syrah** (sponsored by Redox): Longbush Bird Series Syrah 2009.

**Other Whites** (sponsored by Armourtech): Bushmere Estate Chardonnay/Viognier 2010

**Reds Blends and Others** (sponsored by RadioNetwork): Coopers Creek Limited Reserve Release Gisborne Malbec 2010.

**Dessert** (sponsored by The Gisborne Herald): The Millton Vineyard Clos Samuel Viognier Special Berry Selection 2010.

## MEDAL RESULTS

Hihi Wines Hihi Elsie - Sweet White Fortified NV Bronze  
Coopers Creek Coopers Creek SV "The Groover" 2010 Bronze  
Spade Oak Heart of Gold Chardonnay / Viognier 2009 Bronze  
Ashwood Estate Ashwood Estate Pinot Gris 2009 Bronze  
Hihi Wines Hihi Myriad 2008 Bronze  
Hihi Wines Hihi Syrah/Mourvedre/Grenache 2009 Bronze  
Poverty Bay Wine Estates Ltd Poverty Bay Rose 2010 Bronze  
Waimata Wines Cognoscenti 2008 Bronze  
Kirkpatrick Estate Winery Kirkpatrick Estate Winery Gewurztraminer 2010 Bronze  
Farmers Market Wine Company The Maker - Gisborne Merlot 2010 Bronze  
Denis Irwin 747 2009 Bronze  
Bushmere Estate Bushmere Estate Montepulciano/Sangiovese 2010 Bronze  
New Zealand Wine Cellars Fierte Individual Vineyard Gisborne Cuvee NV NV Bronze  
Lion Nathan Te Hana Sparkling Rose NV Bronze  
Waimata Wines Cognoscenti 2009 Bronze  
Spade Oak Spade Oak Syrah 2009 Bronze  
Hihi Wines Hihi Viognier 2009 Bronze  
Matawhero Wines Matawhero Chardonnay 2010 Bronze  
Federal Geo Limited Bloody Bay Chardonnay 2009 Bronze  
Stone Bridge Wines Stone Bridge 40fied Tawny Port NV Bronze  
TW Wines TW CV 2009 Bronze  
TW Wines TW Summer CV 2010 Bronze  
Longbush Wines Bird Series Syrah 2009 Bronze  
Coopers Creek Coopers Creek 2009 Bronze  
New Zealand Wine Cellars Three Ducks Gisborne 2010 Bronze  
Tiritiri Estate Tiritiri Reserve 2008 Bronze  
Hihi Wines Hihi Gewurztraminer 2010 Bronze  
Wrights Vineyard & Winery Wrights Vineyard & Winery 2010 Bronze  
Matawhero Wines Matawhero Merlot 2010 Bronze  
Coopers Creek Coopers Creek SV "The Little Rascal" 2010 Bronze  
Spade Oak Heart of Gold Gruner Vetliner 2010 Bronze  
Kirkpatrick Estate Winery Kirkpatrick Estate Winery Reserve Malbec 2009 Bronze  
Coopers Creek Coopers Creek 2008 Bronze  
Kirkpatrick Estate Winery Kirkpatrick Estate Winery Wild Rose 2009 Bronze  
Matawhero Wines Matawhero Sauvignon Blanc 2009 Bronze  
Longbush Wines Bird Series Viognier 2010 Bronze  
Sugar Loaf Wines Suagr Loaf Viognier 2009 Bronze  
TW Wines TW Growers Selection Chardonnay 2010 Bronze  
TW Wines TW Growers Selection Chardonnay 2009 Bronze  
Brunton Road Wines Brunton Road Chardonnay 2009 Bronze  
The Millton Vineyard Clos de Ste Anne Naboth's Chardonnay 2009 Bronze  
Bushmere Estate Bushmere Estate Chardonnay 2008 Bronze  
Kirkpatrick Estate Winery Kirkpatrick Estate Winery Reserve Chardonnay 2006 Bronze  
Hihi Wines Hihi Late Harvest Viognier 2009 Bronze  
Bushmere Estate Bushmere Estate Gewurztraminer 2010 Bronze  
Sunrise Estate Ltd Tolaga Bay Estate 2010 Bronze  
New Zealand Wine Cellars Coopers Creek Limited Reserve Release Gisborne 2009 Bronze  
Longbush Wines Bird Series Chardonnay 2010 Bronze  
Lion Nathan Saints Noble Semillon 2009 Bronze  
Matawhero Wines Matawhero Gewurztraminer 2009 Bronze  
Matawhero Wines Matawhero Arneis 2010 Bronze  
New Zealand Wine Cellars Paradox Cuvee NV NV Bronze  
TW Wines TW Innocent Chardonnay 2010 Bronze  
Waimata Wines Cognoscenti 2010 Bronze  
Villa Maria Estate Villa Maria Private Bin Viognier 2010 Bronze  
Black Barn Vineyard Black Barn Vineyards Viognier 2010 Bronze  
Spade Oak Spade Oak Viognier 2009 Bronze  
New Zealand Wine Cellars Young Nick Gisborne 2010 Bronze  
New Zealand Wine Cellars Mantle Hill Gisborne 2010 Bronze  
The Millton Vineyard The Millton Vineyard Riverpoint Chardonnay 2009 Bronze  
Brunton Road Wines Brunton Road Organic Chardonnay 2009 Bronze  
Lion Nathan Saints Chardonnay 2010 Bronze  
Bushmere Estate Bushmere Estate Chardonnay/Viognier 2010 Bronze  
Sunrise Estate Ltd Tolaga Bay Estate 2010 Silver  
Waimata Wines Waimata 2010 Silver  
Spade Oak Spade Oak Chardonnay 2009 Silver  
Tohu Wines Limited Tohu 2009 Silver  
Longbush Wines Bird Series Gewurztraminer 2010 Silver

Kirkpatrick Estate Winery Kirkpatrick Estate Winery Gewurztraminer 2009 Silver  
Tairawhiti Polytech Waimata  
Winery Henry's Mistake 2010 Silver  
Lion Nathan Lindauer Special Reserve Blanc de Blanc NV Silver  
Lion Nathan Lindauer Summer NV Silver  
Lion Nathan Huntaway Reserve Viognier 2010 Silver  
Coopers Creek Coopers Creek 2009 Silver  
Stone Bridge Wines Stone Bridge Chardonnay 2009 Silver  
Lion Nathan Saints Pinot Gris 2010 Silver  
Kirkpatrick Estate Winery Kirkpatrick Estate Winery Reserve Malbec 2010 Silver  
Sunrise Estate Ltd Tolaga Bay Estate 2010 Silver  
The Millton Vineyard Crazy by Nature - Shotberry Chardonnay 2010 Silver  
Longbush Wines Longbush Reserve Chardonnay 2010 Silver  
Coopers Creek Coopers Creek Reserve 2009 Silver  
Stone Bridge Wines Stone Bridge Gewurztraminer 2007 Silver  
Soljans Estate Winery Soljans Fusion Sparkling NV Silver  
Bushmere Estate Bushmere Estate Viognier 2010 Silver  
New Zealand Wine Cellars Coopers Creek Riparian Gisborne 2010 Silver  
Farmers Market Wine Company The Maker - Gisborne Chardonnay 2009 Silver  
Hihi Wines Hihi Sauvignon Blanc 2010 Silver  
Lion Nathan Te Hana Sparkling Cuvee NV Silver  
Lion Nathan Huntaway Reserve Gewurztraminer 2009 Silver  
TW Wines TW Estate Chardonnay 2010 Gold  
Villa Maria Estate Thornbury Chardonnay 2010 Gold  
Villa Maria Estate Villa Maria Reserve Barrique Fermented Gisborne Chardonnay 2010 Gold  
Villa Maria Estate Villa Maria Reserve Barrique Fermented Gisborne Chardonnay 2009 Gold  
Lion Nathan Huntaway Reserve Chardonnay 2009 Gold  
Spade Oak Spade Oak Noble Viognier 2009 Gold  
Lion Nathan Saints Gewurztraminer 2010 Gold  
Brunton Road Wines Brunton Road Pinot Gris 2010 Gold  
New Zealand Wine Cellars Coopers Creek Limited Reserve Release Gisborne 2010 Gold  
The Millton Vineyard The Millton Vineyard Riverpoint Viognier 2010 Gold  
The Millton Vineyard The Millton Vineyard Clos Samuel Viognier Special Berry Selection 2010 Gold  
Lion Nathan Huntaway Reserve Pinot Gris 2010 Gold  
Coopers Creek Coopers Creek 2010 Gold

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