

Kiwis dominate young winemaker awards

The Wine Society has announced the 10 finalists for the prestigious Young Winemaker of the Year Award 2008. In a first for the awards, almost half of the finalists are from New Zealand. The competition only opened up to New Zealand winemakers last year when only two Kiwis made the top 10.

This year is also proving to be a coup for the South of Australia with all Australian finalists coming from either Victoria, South Australia or Tasmania.

The final 10 are:

- Stuart Marfell from Vavasour Wines - Marlborough, NZ
- Greg Clack from Chain of Ponds - Gumeracha, SA

- Malcolm Rees-Francis from Rockburn Wines – Central Otago, NZ
- Lucas Cowley from Auntsfield Estate - Blenheim, NZ
- Anna Pooley from Heemskerk Wines – South Hobart, TAS
- Angela Miranda from Orlando Wines – Barossa Valley, SA
- Matt Evans from De Vine Wines – Central Otago, NZ
- Greer Carland from Winemaking Tasmania - TAS
- Helen McCarthy from Taylors Wines – Clare Valley, SA
- Ben Haines from Mitchelton Wines – Nagambie, VIC

Winners will be announced at the black tie gala awards dinner at the Westin Hotel in Sydney on 1 November.

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Breaking Pellenc news from France

An excited Pellenc Australia managing director, Louise Fraser, couldn't wait to tell people back home when news of Pellenc being named a finalist in the NAB Agribusiness Awards for Excellence, reached her during a trip to France.

It is the second year running Pellenc has made the short-list in the category of technology and innovation.

Fraser, said that the company was absolutely thrilled at being named a finalist for the second year running. "We were surprised and delighted to be finalists last year and to have the same success this year is overwhelming. The calibre of the other finalists last year was very high and we were honoured to be in such good company. I have no doubt that this year's group will be of a similar standing", she said.

FOSS launches wine analyser

Hilleroed, Denmark, FOSS announced positive results from an international validation test of the global standard calibrations supplied with OenoFoss™, a new analyser allowing instant quality control of grapes and wine.

The calibrations for must, must under fermentation and wine were tested for repeatability and accuracy against standard reference methods with respect to routine testing requirements. Tests have been completed at laboratories in France, Italy, Spain, Germany, Argentina, Australia and in USA. In each case, the calibrations have been found to be within acceptable levels of repeatability and accuracy.

The validation results give winemakers an assurance that the measurements they make with their OenoFoss are as reliable for routine control purposes as those from a laboratory in their local winemaking region and thus an attractive alternative to laboratory analysis. FOSS wine market manager, Christian Harpsoe said: "Wine producers can rely on the OenoFoss for their local region because the calibrations are based on a vast amount of data collected from thousands of samples around the world – you can just plug in the instrument and start analysing."

Further validation tests are in progress in the USA, Slovenia, Greece, Hungary, South Africa and Portugal. Application notes explaining the procedure involved in making the OenoFoss calibrations are available from FOSS.

For more information visit www.foss.dk/oenofoss

Pouring solution from Enomatic

Enomatic has launched its new Cellar Series model, specifically designed to provide a simple pouring solution for small restaurants, bars, winery cellar doors and homes.

This new compact Enomatic is a four-bottle system providing accurate volume control to serve a taste, half or full glass from any of the bottles at the push of a button. Enomatic say the bottle will be perfectly preserved, after opening, for up to three weeks.

Andrew Jamieson, sommelier at Gazebo Wine Garden, where the Enomatic has been used since its 2006 opening says; "There is no doubt Enomatic is the state of the art system. It keeps top wines like Penfold's Grange for almost four weeks, which is absolutely amazing. It allows us to serve wines by the glass that people don't usually see."

Wineries interested in the Enomatic options for use in cellar door or restaurants can contact 1800 130 395 or visit www.enomatic.co.nz

New name for wine industry supplier

Australian Winemakers has changed its name to Australian & New Zealand Winemakers in a move it says finetunes and better reflects the company's breadth of operations and streamlined communications.

"We have been trading in New Zealand as New Zealand Winemakers for the past three years, and have successfully been working with a number of large and boutique sized customers including Montana, Jackson Estate and Links Winery. The transition to merge our two trading names into one is timely, significant and reinforces our commitment to the New Zealand market," said Paul Baggio, CEO of Australian & New Zealand Winemakers.

"It's an exciting time for both the New Zealand Wine Industry and our organisation, and we are looking forward to assisting customers with the forthcoming vintage," added Baggio.

For more information, visit www.ausnzwinemakers.com