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Columns - Wine Press

Experts rate 132 Wairarapa wines

22 November 2006



The best new release wines from the lower North Island's premier wine-producing region:

THIRTY wineries, 113 wines, three judges, one day ... welcome to the fifth *Capital Times* Wairarapa Spring Wine Report.

The Wairarapa is justly famous for its Pinot Noir, but this year's survey proves it is just as good when it comes to riesling, chardonnay, sauvignon blanc and pinot gris, while a handful of producers also manage to create top quality wine in other styles.

Judges were impressed by the consistency of the riesling and sauvignon blanc sections in particular, where a high proportion of the submitted wines received medals and a couple of corkers took gold.

Sauvignon Blanc

Johner Estate Gladstone Sauvignon Blanc 2006

(\$20) Gold

An elegant expression of the Wairarapa half-way savvy combining the best of the sweaty, tart Marlborough style and the softly tropical Hawkes Bay style.

Johner Estate Gladstone Pinot Noir 2005

(\$34) Bronze

Slightly shy and closed, but supple and clean.

Johner Estate Moonlight Pinot Noir 2005

(\$20) Bronze

A light and clean Beaujolais-style pinot.

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