



PHIPPS

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Global wine experts rank NZ wines amongst the best in the world

New Zealand ranked third in the world for its wine, according to the latest results of the International Wine Challenge, the world's most rigorous wine competition.

Kiwi wines scooped up 14 Gold medals and 287 medals overall in the first round of the 2020 International Wine Challenge with Australia in first place with 36 Gold medals and France in second place with 26.

Marlborough, Hawke's Bay and Central Otago going for Gold

The Gold medal-winners were produced in some of the best wine regions in New Zealand: Marlborough, Hawke's Bay and Central Otago. Amongst the Gold medal-winners, a \$15.99 Sauvignon Blanc available from [The Good Wine Co](#) was one of the highest scoring wines of the entire competition. Stoneleigh Wild Valley Wild Sauvignon Blanc 2019 was one of only six wines to score 96 out of 100 available points; other top scorers included a Chablis Grand Cru and a premium red Burgundy from France.

"New Zealand has long been regarded as one of the finest producers of Sauvignon Blanc in the world, and the results from this first tranche of the International Wine Challenge prove that. It's also great to see that a range of other wine styles from New Zealand, both white and red, were recognised for their excellence", commented Peter McCombie MW, International Wine Challenge Co-Chairman.

Stoneleigh scooped a second Gold for its Rapaura Series Chardonnay 2018, whilst Tohu Wines also picked up two Gold medals for Tohu Awatere Valley Pinot Gris 2019 and Tohu Whenua Awa Chardonnay 2017.

Church Road led the charge for Hawke's Bay Chardonnay, taking home Gold medals for both Church Road McDonald Series Chardonnay 2018 and Church Road Grand Reserve Chardonnay 2018. Whilst Elephant Hill was awarded Gold for its Stone Syrah 2017.

Central Otago produced some top-performing Pinots, with Wild Earth Pinot Noir 2017 and Nevis Bluff Pinot Gris 2017 both achieving Gold medals.

Full list of New Zealand Gold medal winners below.

Producer	Wine	Region	Price	Stockists
Wild Earth Wines	Wild Earth Pinot Noir, 2017	Central Otago	\$29.99	Good Wine Co, Vino Fino, Glengarry Wines
Nevis Bluff Wines	Nevis Bluff Pinot Gris, 2017	Central Otago	\$22.90	Point Wines
Villa Maria	Tesco Finest Central Otago Pinot Noir, 2018	Central Otago	N/A	For export

Pernod Ricard Winemakers NZ	Church Road McDonald Series Chardonnay, 2018	Hawke's Bay	\$21.99	Good Wine Co, Glengarry Wines
Pernod Ricard Winemakers NZ	Church Road Grand Reserve Chardonnay, 2018	Hawke's Bay	\$29.99	Good Wine Co, Vino Fino, Glengarry Wines, Moore Wilson's
Elephant Hill	Elephant Hill Stone Syrah, 2017	Hawke's Bay	N/A	Elephant Hill
Lake Chalice Wines	Lake Chalice The Raptor Pinot Noir, 2017	Waihopai Valley, Marlborough	N/A	Lake Chalice Wines
Kono NZ	Tohu Awatere Valley Pinot Gris, 2019	Awatere Valley, Marlborough	N/A	New World
Kono NZ	Tohu Whenua Awa Chardonnay, 2017	Awatere Valley, Marlborough	\$39.99	Glengarry Wines
Lawson's Dry Hills	Blind River TeKau Sauvignon Blanc, 2017	Awatere Valley, Marlborough	N/A	Lawson's Dry Hills
Marisco Vineyards	Leefield Station Pinot Noir, 2018	Waihopai Valley, Marlborough	\$25.99	Liquor King
te Pa Family Vineyards	Pa Road Sauvignon Blanc, 2019	Marlborough	\$14	Countdown
Pernod Ricard Winemakers NZ	Stoneleigh Wild Valley Wild Sauvignon Blanc, 2019	Marlborough	\$15.99	Good Wine Co
Pernod Ricard Winemakers NZ	Stoneleigh Rapaura Series Chardonnay, 2018	Marlborough	\$21.99	New World, Glengarry Wines

For more information on the [International Wine Challenge](#), please contact the team at Phipps

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

The International Wine Challenge

In its 37th year, the International Wine Challenge is accepted as the world's most rigorous, impartial and influential wine competition. The International Wine Challenge 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 International Wine Challenge is committed to helping consumers discover great wine, and the medals displayed on winning bottles offer a trusted guarantee of quality. The International Wine Challenge is committed to helping consumers discover great wine, and the medals displayed on winning bottles and in winning shops offer a trusted guarantee of quality.

The first part of the 2020 International Wine Challenge – Tranche 1 – saw over 200 of the world's top wine experts from 23 countries judging the wines over four days in London. Tranche 2 judging will take place from April 14-23, 2020, with the results announced on May 15. Full results of Tranche 1 2020 [here](#) and a full list of New Zealand medals [here](#). Wine prices correct at time of publication.

Look out for the International Wine Challenge stickers on wine bottles in stores. Each sticker vouches that the wine has been tasted by over 200 expert judges and is a guarantee that the wine in the bottle is a great example of its type.

