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MEDIA RELEASE
September 2008

HUNTER VALLEY WINEMAKERS NOMINATED FOR YOUNG WINEMAKER OF THE YEAR

Janelle Zerk of Mt View Estate and Matt Burton of Wandin Valley Estate, Hunter Valley, have been nominated for the prestigious annual Wine Society Young Winemaker of the Year Award 2008.

First time nominee Janelle was nominated by Mt View Estate CEO, John Burgess. "I was really shocked when I found out I had been nominated. It is so great to be able to get that sort of recognition from the people you work with," Janelle said.

As general manager of Wandin Valley Estate, Matt sees the nomination as recognition of his hard work and input into the success of the winery. "I think the nomination highlights the passion that I have for winemaking and my dedication to making good wine," Matt said.

The two are the only nominees from the Hunter Valley region. Both Matt and Janelle are proud of the area and believe it is a very strong winemaking region. "I think it shows that some really good wines are continuing to come out of the Hunter Valley," Janelle said. Matt added: "It's certainly a great achievement in getting recognition for the area. We are making world class wines in the Hunter Valley."

The Wine Society, Australia's oldest independent wine club, launched the awards nine years ago and now attracts impressive entries from Australia and New Zealand's best wine companies, both large and small. It is open to all winemakers under 30, who are primarily responsible for the creation of the wine.

The aim of the award is to recognise the importance and best efforts of young people in the wine industry and distinguish themselves as the winemakers of the future.

Nominations are now closed, and the top 10 finalists will be notified by mid-September. The winner will be announced at the glamorous awards dinner at the Westin Hotel in Sydney on 1 November 2008.

For more information visit www.winesociety.com.au

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Notes to editor: The Wine Society was established in 1946 when Dr. Gilbert Phillips and a group of wine loving friends shared a collective vision and passion to purchase and distribute Australian table wine. Today that vision continues and The Wine Society boasts almost 60,000 members across Australia.

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