



thewinesociety

MEDIA RELEASE

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THE WINE SOCIETY REVEALS YOUNG WINEMAKER OF THE YEAR 2008

Ben Haines from Mitchelton Wines in Nagambie, Victoria has been named The Wine Society Young Winemaker of the Year 2008.

Announced at the Westin Hotel, Sydney, last night (Saturday 1 November), Ben scooped the prestigious award for his winning two wines – 2008 Blackwood Park Riesling and 2006 Print Shiraz.

Ron Corby, Acting CEO of The Wine Society, said: “In the eight years of The Wine Society Young Winemaker of the Year Awards, this was the closest contested finals ever. With one judge to taste, seven of the 10 finalist winemakers were within three points of winning the highest accolade, out of a possible 120 points. Ben has done an outstanding job to take this year’s title.”

In addition to The Wine Society Young Winemaker of the Year, two other awards were given – the Member’s Choice and the Sommelier’s Choice.

Winner of the Member’s Choice was Helen McCarthy from Taylors Wines, Clare Valley who put forward the 2005 Jaraman Cabernet Sauvignon and 2005 Jaraman Shiraz. Helen was a finalist at last year’s awards and was a strong leader in the member voting from the outset.

Winner of the Sommelier’s Choice, chosen by 10 of the country’s top sommeliers, was Malcolm Rees-Francis from Rockburn Wines, Central Otago in NZ for his 2007 Pinot Gris and 2007 Pinot Noir. Malcolm is the first New Zealander to win a Young Winemaker title.

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Notes to editor

The Wine Society, Australia’s largest and oldest independent wine club, launched the award six years ago and now attracts impressive entries from the region’s best wine companies, both large and small. It is open to all Australian, and now New Zealand, 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.

For more information, visit www.winesociety.com.au

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