



MEDIA RELEASE
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CLARE VALLEY WINEMAKER WINS PRESTIGIOUS TITLE

Helen McCarthy from Taylors Wines, Clare Valley, has been named the Members' Choice at The Wine Society Young Winemaker of the Year awards.

Announced at the Westin Hotel, Sydney, last night (Saturday 1 November), Helen scooped the prestigious award for her winning two wines, 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.

Ron Corby, Acting CEO of The Wine Society, said: "Helen dominated this award from the beginning, commanding victory from five of the six Members' Choice road shows around Australia. Wines were tasted in both warm and cool climates and these spectacular wines stood out to our members among some of Australia and New Zealand's best wines. Helen has done a great job to take the title of Members' Choice against all the competition."

Winner of the overall Wine Society Young Winemaker of the Year award was Ben Haines from Mitchelton Wines, Nagambie, Victoria for his winning two wines – 2008 Blackwood Park Riesling and 2006 Print Shiraz.

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.

Ends

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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