



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: Results Published from NZ Wine Rater's tasting of Pinot Noir 2021
DATE: 8th November 2021

We are pleased to announce the results from our latest tasting are now published at www.nzwinerater.com.

Pinot Noir is unequivocally New Zealand's signature red grape variety with 14% of the country's vineyard area, some five times that of the next most planted red variety, Merlot. Furthermore, in terms of inherent quality it leads the way with a much higher percentage of wines scoring top marks in our latest tasting than any other variety.

7 wines scored 96/100 (Exceptional), another 26 wines scored 93-95 (Excellent) and 57 wines scored 90-92 (Highly commended). There's rich for both the consumer and wine trade to discover among our results.

While it was once the speciality of just a handful of regions the variety is now performing strongly across the country. Featuring amongst the highest 10% of the scores we awarded were wines from Auckland, Canterbury, Central Otago, Martinborough, Marlborough, and Nelson.

The quality of the 2020 and 2019 vintages were overall very high. Albeit from two very different growing seasons they both showed a similar vibrancy and energy with good ripeness levels, concentration and balance.

Another exciting sign of the industry's growing maturity is that the top wines were anything but formulaic with increased stylistic diversity ensuring there are wines that will appeal to a variety of tastes. Our judges considerable experience and slow, meticulous 'double blind' tasting method provides a platform for all styles to score highly, not just the biggest, boldest wines as is often the case in wine competitions.

Congratulations to Pegasus Bay Winery who produced both the top wine of the tasting and the best value wine and to Escarpment Winery with 3 wines in our top ten.

Our next tasting late this month will focus on Sauvignon Blanc.
Entries are open on the website.

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