

FIRSTPRESS

Australian and New Zealand wine industry news

FirstPress Newsletter - Issue 78 (1 October 2008)

Welcome to the FirstPress Newsletter. A weekly roundup of news, events and happenings in the wine industry. [Trouble viewing this mail? Read it online.](#)

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Top Story - One small step for Australian Albarino, one giant leap for alternative varietals

01/10/2008

Latest Headlines

[Founder of Red Hill Estate passes away](#)
01/10/2008 - It is with great sadness that we announce the passing overnight of Sir Peter Derham, the founder of Red Hill Estate on the Mornington Peninsula. Sir Peter's health had been deteriorating for some time but his passing comes as a shock, and brings to an end a life of someone who was a larger-than-life character, and who will be greatly missed by many in the community and all in the wine industry.

[Hawke's Bay big winner in the NZ International Wine Show](#)
01/10/2008 - Hawke's Bay scooped more Trophies than any other New Zealand region in the 2008 NZ International Wine Show. Church Road Winery holds the Champion Wine of Show Trophy and Champion Chardonnay Trophy for the Reserve Hawke's Bay Chardonnay 2006.

[McLaren Vale Rewards Clean and Green Regional Heroes](#)
01/10/2008 - The McLaren Vale Grape, Wine and Tourism Association (MVGWTA) held their annual Wine Industry Awards on 19 September, naming and rewarding the regions cleanest and greenest grapegrowers, viticulturists and wineries.



Sam Miranda Wines of the King Valley has taken home the **The Late John C Brown Trophy** for Best Dry White Table wine with its **Symphonia Albarino 2008** at the Rutherglen Wine Show.

The Albarino grape is native to *Rias Baixas* in the *Galicia* region of north-western Spain. It is a late ripening variety with low yields and fragile fruit resulting in a unique wine of high natural acidity, intense aromas and complex flavours.

The Albarino vines at the Symphonia vineyard in the King Valley were among the first to trial Albarino in Australia. The cool and breezy conditions in the Symphonia vineyard mirror the *terroir* in some of the best vineyards in *Rias Baixas* making it a perfect spot for the variety. The initial planting was of 60 vines, however, the trial showed such promise another three acres were planted in 2006.

The fruit for the Symphonia Albarino is carefully harvested by hand and the wine is produced in small quantities. The 2008 is the second successful vintage of Symphonia's Albarino. The Late John C Brown Trophy winning vintage exhibits zesty and fresh characters with fragrant aromas of fresh peaches and apricots followed by a dry and lingering creamy lemon tart finish.

[Mud House Wines Wins Two Trophies at the New Zealand International Wine Show](#)

01/10/2008 - The leading winery Mud House Wines has another two accolades to add to the awards cabinet, having received two Trophy Awards at this year's New Zealand International Wine Show – New Zealand's largest wine competition which attracted over 2000 entries. The Trophies were awarded for the 2008 Mud House Swan Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc and the 2008 Mud House Waipara Riesling. The Trophy winning wines are all gold medal winners in their respective classes, but have been singled out by the judges as being the best of the best.

[Church Road Reserve Chardonnay tops New Zealand's largest wine competition](#)

01/10/2008 - The Champion Wine of the Show at the 2008 New Zealand International Wine Show is the Church Road Reserve Hawkes Bay Chardonnay 2006

[Hawke's Bay wines win over international wine experts](#)

01/10/2008 - The reputation of Hawke's Bay wines will be spread further round the world following the visits recently of four wine experts who each have the power to influence purchase decisions of wine consumers worldwide.

[Patina – the spectrum of colour that is Orange](#)

01/10/2008 - Patina Wines, from the cool highlands of Orange, has recently released its 2005 Patina Orange Pinot Noir and 2007 Patina Orange Chardonnay.

[Sileni Estates celebrates 10 years since first vintage](#)

01/10/2008 - One of this country's top wineries marks a major milestone this year. Ten years after its first vintage, Sileni Estates in Hawke's Bay is reflecting on a decade of

Winemaker, Sam Miranda said; "We are thrilled the Symphonia Albarino 2008 has received such high accolades. Albarino is a very exciting variety that is an interesting alternative to the mainstream white varietals. Its inherent acidity and dry character make it an excellent food wine. This trophy will bring further recognition to Australian Albarino and its infinite possibilities."

The Symphonia Albarino 2008 retails for \$20 per bottle and is available at Sam Miranda Wines Cellar Door and in selected independent retail outlets.

[Featured Winery - Optimiste \(Mudgee\)](#)



Optimiste

WINES of MUDGEE

Optimiste is a brand new range of boutique, single vineyard wines from Mudgee, New South Wales.

Optimiste is owned and run by the Dadd family who have been producing exceptional fruit from their vineyards for over 10 years now and have sold to some of the best wineries in New South Wales.

They are now realising their long held dream to launch their own wines under the name OPTIMISTE. A name inspired by their son's struggle with deafness and a quote by Helen Keller, "Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence."

[\[more ...\]](#)

[Featured Wine - Optimiste Mudgee Petit Verdot 2006](#)

significant growth, the creation of award winning wine and an international reputation.

[New Zealand wines win record gold medals at international wine competition](#)

01/10/2008 - New Zealand wines today achieved a record number of gold medals at the International Wine and Spirit Competition (IWSC), taking out a total of 11 gold medals at the prestigious competition held in the United Kingdom.

[Saving a Barossa Icon - The Revival of Château Tanunda](#)

01/10/2008 - A present day Icon of the Valley – When it was built in 1890 Château Tanunda was the largest building in South Australia (larger than Parliament house) and the largest winery in the southern Hemisphere.

[A Proud Champion – Church Road Reserve Chardonnay 2006](#)

01/10/2008 - Church Road Reserve Hawke's Bay Chardonnay 2006 won the Champion Wine of the Show Trophy and NZ Champion Chardonnay Trophy at the New Zealand International Wine Show, the largest wine competition held in New Zealand.

[One small step for Australian Albarino, one giant leap for alternative varietals](#)

01/10/2008 - Sam Miranda Wines of the King Valley has taken home the The Late John C Brown Trophy for Best Dry White Table wine with its Symphonia Albarino 2008 at the Rutherglen Wine Show.

[The 120th Annual Rutherglen Wine Show Josef Chromy 2006 Pinot Noir Claims Trophy](#)

01/10/2008 - The admiration and awareness for Tasmanian wine continues to grow. The oldest Wine show in Australia has awarded Tasmania's Josef Chromy 2006 Pinot Noir the Trophy for "Best Australian Dry Red



The carefully cultivated, well drained gravel slopes of the Optimiste vineyards give this late ripening grape variety the very best chance of ripening slowly and evenly, softening out the tannins and filling out the palate.

Quality fruit produces wonderfully true varietal characters in the wine.

[\[more ...\]](#)

[For further information on Optimiste](#)

[Want to feature your winery, contact FirstPress.](#)

WineBanq® 2008 Cellar Management Software



[WineBanq® 2008](#) Trial Edition* is now available for download from the WineBanq site. Some of the features are:

- View a selection of the Winestate Tasting Notes

easily on your home PC.

- Easily view and organise your wines.
- Quickly add new wines to your cellar.
- Restock your cellar using the wine details Previously entered.
- Rate the wines that you drink. Colour code your wines for viewing Optimal drinking.
- Set default values to be used when adding new wines.
- Export wines to a variety of popular formats.

Table Wine- Pinot Noir”.

[Pouring heart and soul into wine](#)

01/10/2008 - Hot on the heels of opening the restaurant, lounge and cellar door, Mandala is excited to release its second vintage: the 2008 Mandala Sauvignon Blanc, 2007 Mandala Chardonnay and 2007 Mandala Pinot Noir.

[Your access to Australia's best wine and food experiences](#)

01/10/2008 - The VisitVineyards.com membership program launches this week and will enable wine and food explorers to take their regional travel to a whole new level. As Australia's most comprehensive guide to regional wine, food and travel, VisitVineyards.com has focused on Victoria's iconic Mornington Peninsula for the first phase of its membership program.

[\\$500,000 boost for SA's food and wine tourism industry](#)

01/10/2008 - The South Australian Government will invest \$500,000 to boost South Australia's food and wine tourism industry.

[New Sales and Marketing Manager at Voyager Estate](#)

01/10/2008 - As many of you will now know, it is with great sadness for all of us that Nicole Walton will be leaving Voyager Estate on Friday, 3 October 2008, to devote time to establishing her own marketing consultancy and to undertake further tertiary studies in 2009.

[Ben O'Donoghue Lunch at Meadowbank](#)

01/10/2008 - Ben O'Donoghue Lunch at Meadowbank

[Toast to the Coast Sat 1st and Sunday 2nd November 11am - 5pm.](#)

01/10/2008 - Toast to the Coast, an annual

- Powerful grid for flexible searching.
- Save common searches
- Search the Tasting Notes based on selectable criteria.
- Add wines in the Tasting Notes to your cellar.
- Print out individual wines or a range of wines in your cellar.

* The trial edition is limited to 30 entries in the cellar section and several past issues of the Winestate Tasting Notes.

Registration and subscriptions for the software can be taken out from the [WineBanq](#) web site.

food and wine festival, is now in its third year. Along with some of the finest wineries in the Geelong region, Pettavel will be participating in the festival again. Join us over the weekend and treat yourself to highly acclaimed estate grown wines from Pettavel and six of Geelong's best boutique wineries.

[

[Henschke milestone - 140 years - a story covering 6 generations](#)

01/10/2008 - Henschke, one of Australia's most famous winemaking dynasties, has garnered international recognition for our country with such acclaimed wines as Hill of Grace. Celebrating their 140th anniversary of winemaking this year, they represent an impressive slice of Australian wine history.

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