

December 2011

### **Bilancia Hawkes Bay Syrah scoops Fruited Supplies champion award**

Bilancia 'Hawke's Bay' Syrah is the winner of the Fruited Supplies Champion Syrah at the 2011 Air New Zealand Wine Awards. The wine was commended by the judges for its "wildly evocative aromas of blueberry, cocoa, fruitcake and sensational hints of oyster shells....dense brooding dark plum, cocoa dust, hints of spice and pepper and warm little stones from its home...".

Organised and owned by New Zealand Winegrowers, the Air New Zealand Wine Awards is widely regarded as the country's most prestigious wine competition. This year the Villa Maria Single Vineyard Keltern Hawke's Bay Chardonnay 2010 won the Champion Wine of the Show

Hawke's Bay and Marlborough topped the trophy tally with each region winning six trophies. Martinborough received three trophies, and the remaining three trophies were awarded to wines from the Nelson, Central Otago and Auckland regions. Fruited Supplies customers fared well, representing 16 of the 19 trophy winners.

Bilancia is the label of winemakers Lorraine Leheny and Warren Gibson, who established the small winery in 1997 – releasing their first wines in mid-1998. Bilancia is the Italian word for the Zodiac sign Libra, which both Lorraine and Warren were born under.

Pictured below: Warren Gibson of Bilancia with Richard Bawden, Fruited GM, at the 2011 gala Awards dinner.



All the winners:

Air New Zealand Champion Wine of the Show  
Villa Maria Single Vineyard Keltern Hawke's Bay Chardonnay 2010

Fruited Supplies Champion Syrah  
Bilancia Hawke's Bay Syrah 2010

O-I New Zealand Champion Sustainable Wine  
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Villa Maria Single Vineyard Keltern Hawke's Bay Chardonnay 2010

Label and Litho Champion Sauvignon Blanc  
Dashwood Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2011

JF Hillebrand New Zealand Ltd Champion Pinot Noir  
Pencarrow Martinborough Pinot Noir 2010

Rabobank Champion Chardonnay  
Villa Maria Single Vineyard Keltern Hawke's Bay Chardonnay 2010

Wineworks Champion Sparkling Wine  
The Sounds Marlborough Méthode Traditionnelle 2008

Stuff.co.nz Champion Gewürztraminer  
Corbans Private Bin Hawke's Bay Gewürztraminer 2008

Guala Closures NZ Champion Pinot Gris  
Spy Valley Marlborough Pinot Gris 2011

Plant & Food Research Champion Riesling  
Martinborough Vineyard Manu Martinborough Riesling 2011

BDO Champion Other White and Rosé Wine  
Waimea Nelson Viognier 2010

Business World Travel Champion Merlot  
Villa Maria Reserve Hawke's Bay Merlot 2009

Gold Medal Vintage Insurance Champion Cabernet Sauvignon or Merlot/Cabernet Blend  
Mudbrick Vineyard Waiheke Island Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon 2010

The Langham, Auckland Champion Dessert Wine  
Charles Wiffen Late Harvest Marlborough Riesling 2009

New World Champion Open White Wine  
Dashwood Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2011

Fairfax Media Champion Open Red Wine  
Pencarrow Martinborough Pinot Noir 2010

Newstalk ZB Champion Exhibition White or Sparkling Wine  
Lawson's Dry Hills The Pioneer Marlborough Gewürztraminer 2010

Kapiti Champion Exhibition Red Wine  
Charcoal Gully Estate Sallys Pinch Central Otago Pinot Noir 2010

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