

Milestones for Saint Clair Estate Wines

The following is a summary of the key events in the history of Saint Clair Estate Wines, a family winery which is one of the fastest growing and most successful New Zealand wineries.

2006

- Saint Clair Estate Wines new 'state of the art' 3,000 tonne winery opens in March at Riverlands Estate in Blenheim.
- Saint Clair Wairau Reserve 2006, two Trophies and five Gold Medals.
- Three Saint Clair Sauvignon Blancs featured in the *Cuisine* Top 10 Sauvignon Blanc tasting in January 2006 issue. Including the top wine, Wairau Reserve.
- Saint Clair Pioneer Block range was awarded a total of five Trophies and 19 Gold Medals.
- Saint Clair has won an outstanding 45 trophies in both New Zealand and International Wine Shows and over 100 gold medals since 1994.
- Recognition as NZ's leading Sauvignon Blanc producer by wine writers Sue Courtney and Bob Campbell, (MW, Senior Wine Judge).
- Recognition as NZ Winery of the Year, by wine writer Charles Gill and retailer Regional Wines and Spirits.
- Exports to 40 different markets.
- Business Traveller UK announced Saint Clair Estate Wines and Singapore Airlines as joint first prize winners of the 'Best White - Business Class' category at the *Cellars in the Sky Awards 2005*.

2005

- Announced Best New Zealand Wine Producer of the year at International Wine and Spirit Competition 2005 held in London.
- Became the first New Zealand winery to win prestigious international trophies for Champion Sauvignon Blanc and Champion Pinot Noir in the same year.
- Saint Clair Wairau Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 2004 won the Silverado Trophy for the best Sauvignon Blanc at the International Wine and Spirit Competition 2005.
- Saint Clair Wairau Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 2004 wins top Sauvignon Blanc trophy at Decanter World Wine Awards 2005.

- Saint Clair Doctor's Creek Reserve Pinot Noir 2003 won the International Pinot Noir Trophy at the London International Wine Challenge 2005.
- Achieved a *Cuisine* Top Ten rating for Saint Clair Omaka Reserve Pinot Noir 2003
- Saint Clair Pioneer Block range launched.
- Saint Clair Wairau Reserve Sauvignon Blanc became New Zealand's most internationally awarded wine with 28 gold medals and 21 trophies since 2000.
- Appointed new distributor in US – Winesellers Limited
- Appointed new distributor in New Zealand – Negotiants NZ Limited

2004

- International trophies in London for the Saint Clair Wairau Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 2003 at both the International Wine Challenge and *Decanter* World Wine Awards 2004.
- Received 91 points in Wine Spectator for Saint Clair Wairau Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 2003 and Saint Clair Omaka Reserve Chardonnay 2002.
- Achieved finalist status in the Food and Beverage category along with Palliser Estate and Felton Road in the NZTE Exporter of the Year.

2003

- Introduced screw caps to enhance product quality.
- Shipped Saint Clair's largest order ever, six containers to the UK.
- Robert Parker's Wine Advocate rated six Saint Clair wines from 86 to 90 points.
- Best value Pinot Noir in *Cuisine* NZ Reds tasting for Saint Clair Doctor's Creek Pinot Noir 2001.
- New Sauvignon Blanc vineyards established at Benmorven.
- Saint Clair Wairau Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 2002 awarded Trophy for best Sauvignon

Blanc at the International Wine and Spirit Competition held in London.

2002

- Reached total production of 100,000 cases.
- Achieved New Zealand's largest order (of the time) to Spain.
- Awarded seven trophies and 10 gold medals at wine shows within New Zealand.
- Increased export markets to over 30 countries.

2001

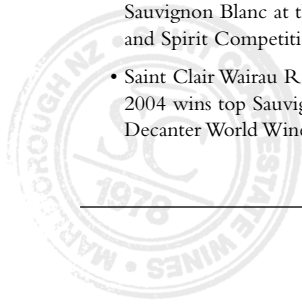
- Production reached 46,000 cases.
- Awarded five trophies including two for champion wines of the show.
- Awarded ten gold medals at local and international wine shows.

2000

- Established a joint venture winery – Marlborough Valley Cellars.
- Established a specialist new Pinot Noir Clone vineyard with the 'best' of clones.
- Increased exports to 20 countries, including France and Spain.
- Awarded *Cuisine* magazine's 'Best White Wine in under \$15 tasting' for Saint Clair Marlborough Riesling 1999.
- Awarded five gold medals at local and international wine shows.

1999

- Produced 28,000 cases.
- USA Wine Spectator awarded seven Saint Clair wines points between 87 and 90.
- Awarded three gold medals and one trophy at wine shows within New Zealand.



Saint Clair Estate Wines

Key Events

1998

- Achieved New Zealand's largest order of wine (of the time) to Switzerland.
- Awarded a gold and silver medal, World Wine Championships USA 1998.

1997

- Awarded a New Zealand Trade Export Award for exports achieved to nine different countries.

1996

- Purchased new vineyards at Rapaura and Awatere Valley. Significantly increased production, and increased exports to a number of new countries.
- Launch of first Reserve wines. Three of these wines received awards – two gold medals and one silver medal.
- First red wine produced, Saint Clair Rapaura Road Merlot. This wine gained a gold medal, 5 stars and Top 10 rating in *Cuisine* magazine.

1995

- Purchased new vineyards at Omaka Valley.
- First export markets developed.
- Obtained New Zealand's largest order of wine (of the time) to Holland.

1994

- The company employed one of New Zealand's leading winemakers as consultant wine maker, Kim Crawford (Winemaker of the Year Liquorland Royal Easter Show 1995 and 1996).
- Produced three wines which all won medals including a Gold and Top Ten *Cuisine* rating for the Sauvignon Blanc

1978

- Neal and Judy Ibbotson were amongst the first viticulture pioneers in Marlborough with the planting of Saint Clair's first vines. 1978 was also the first year of private commercial planting in Marlborough. Saint Clair's grapes were initially sold on contract to other wine companies.

1850's

- James Sinclair built one of the first homes in Blenheim and was closely associated with the early development of the town. The Saint Clair name originates from the vineyard property, first settled by the Sinclair family. (Over time the name of the property reverted to the original Saint Clair)

