



MARLBOROUGH | HAWKES BAY

## WORLD'S LEADING SOMMELIERS GIVE DOUBLE GOLD TO TINPOT HUT WINES

Press release, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009

For the second consecutive year, two Tinpot Hut wines have been selected for the 'Gold List' at the Sommelier Wine Awards in London. The Tinpot Hut Hawkes Bay Syrah 2007 and Tinpot Hut Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2008 were awarded two of only 100 coveted places (from over 1,000 wines tasted) on the 2009 Sommelier Wine Awards 'Gold List'. **After a further round of tasting, the Tinpot Hut Sauvignon Blanc 2008 went on to win one of only 11 places on the 'By the Glass List'.**

Launched in 2006, Tinpot Hut is the solo venture of winemaker Fiona Turner, who has collaborated for a number of years with winemaker Matt Thomson in the production of some of New Zealand's most highly-regarded wines.

'For Tinpot Hut I try to make wines that I would like to drink, so from Marlborough I'm aiming for a Sauvignon Blanc with a subtle Awatere Valley mineral influence. I love Syrah from the Northern Rhone so I look to Hawkes Bay for aromatics in the plum and spice spectrum', explains Fiona.

'It's really exciting to think that both of these wines have been endorsed by some of the world's best sommeliers ... especially two years running', she adds.

The Sommelier Wine Awards is Britain's only restaurant focused wine competition. The judges are leading sommeliers, and to be eligible for entry, the wines have to be available in restaurants but not in mainstream retail outlets. **The judges look for stand-out wines with good typicity, character, balance, and – above all – food-friendliness, and value-for-money.**

Fiona Turner has drawn on her considerable experience as a winemaking consultant in Marlborough and Hawkes Bay to identify exceptional vineyard sites. She then blends selected parcels of fruit from these vineyards with fruit from her own vineyard at Blind River in the Awatere Valley, to create the Tinpot Hut wines.

**ENDS | See below for pricing, distribution and contact details**

For further information, or to request high res digital images

Anna Paterson

Tinpot Hut Wines Ltd

T. +64 3 579 2024

M. +64 21 504 476

E. [anna@tinpothut.co.nz](mailto:anna@tinpothut.co.nz)

## Distribution contacts for Tinpot Hut Wines

### **NEW ZEALAND**

Vintners New Zealand

T. +64 9 621 0210

E. [sales@vintnersnz.co.nz](mailto:sales@vintnersnz.co.nz)

### **CANADA – ONTARIO**

Hobbs & Co. Wine Merchants

T. + 1 416 694 3689

E. [ahobbs@hobbswines.com](mailto:ahobbs@hobbswines.com)

### **AUSTRALIA – NSW & VIC**

Bibendum Wine Co.

T. +61 3 8415 0070

E. [mstone@bibendum.com.au](mailto:mstone@bibendum.com.au)

### **HONG KONG**

Essential Fine Wines

T. +852 3679 3200

E. [nicola@efw.com.hk](mailto:nicola@efw.com.hk)

### **AUSTRALIA – WA**

Wine Savvy

T. + 61 8 9244 3299

E. [Lloyd@mgmwines.com.au](mailto:Lloyd@mgmwines.com.au)

### **UK & EUROPE**

Liberty Wines

T. +44 20 7720 5350

E. [David.Gleave@libertywine.co.uk](mailto:David.Gleave@libertywine.co.uk)

### **CANADA – B.C.**

David Herman & Son

T. +1 604 737 0018

E. [dhs-wine@portal.ca](mailto:dhs-wine@portal.ca)

**CONT'D | See below for more about Tinpot Hut and the Sommelier Wine Awards**

## More about Tinpot Hut Wines

The Tinpot Hut range comprises a Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc, a Marlborough Pinot Gris, and a Hawkes Bay Syrah. The wines are exported to the UK, Europe, Australia, Hong Kong and Canada.

Tinpot Hut Wines Ltd is jointly owned by winemakers Fiona Turner and Matt Thomson in partnership with Liberty Wines UK, represented by David Gleave, M.W.

Awards for the Tinpot Hut Sauvignon Blanc 2008 include a Gold Medal at the New Zealand International Wine Show and selection by Matthew Jukes in his Top 60 New Zealand Wines of 2009.

Tinpot Hut Sauvignon Blanc 2007 and Tinpot Hut Syrah 2006 were both selected for the Gold List in the 2008 Sommelier Wine Awards.

## The Tinpot Hut name

The Tinpot Hut that gave its name to the wines is an old mustering hut in the remote hills between the Wairau and Awatere Valleys. These huts were used as a base for musterers as they rounded up the sheep that had been in the hills from spring to autumn.

The name links Marlborough's past as a sheep farming centre with its current state as one of the world's most dynamic wine regions.

## More about the Sommelier Wine Awards

1,000 wines were tasted, with the list then narrowed down to the most interesting and versatile wines that 'delivered for the price'. This became the Sommeliers' Short List. These 300 wines were re-tasted and from there the 'Best of the Best' were chosen to make up the 100-strong Gold List. A further tasting was held to identify the 11 'By the Glass' award winners.

The Sommelier Wine Awards is conducted by Imbibe Magazine, a British on-trade publication. The results are published in book that is designed to become a reference for sommeliers.

Further information: [www.imbibemagazine.co.uk](http://www.imbibemagazine.co.uk)