



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 13 November 2008

AUSTRALIA'S TOP WINE ACCOLADES CONTINUE FOR SCARPANTONI ESTATE

Renowned McLaren Vale winery Scarpantoni Estate has taken out one of Australia's most prestigious wine awards with its Block 3 Shiraz judged the best wine at the 2008 VISY Great Australia Shiraz Challenge. The win continues the winery's amazing success over the past 12 months including the 2007 Jimmy Watson Trophy, recognised as Australia's top wine accolade, for its 2006 Brother's Block Cabernet Sauvignon.

Announced on Friday 7 November at Victoria's historic Tahbilk Winery, Scarpantoni Estate faced extensive competition in The Shiraz Challenge with 368 wines entered from across Australia reflecting diverse regional and climatic differences and vintages ranging from 2002 to 2008.

Delighted with the award win Winemaker Michael Scarpantoni says the trophy reflects his family's dedicated efforts over the past 30 years since establishing the winery.

"Our Block 3 Vineyard is located on the Estate's sandy soils of McLaren Flat and has been predominantly dry grown during its 60 year existence. The Scarpantoni family has carefully nurtured each low yielding vine, ensuring the fruit is picked at optimum maturity to achieve the perfect balance of flavour and sugar ripeness.

"The wine's style has evolved since its first release in 1980 but its full body and rich flavours of coffee, cassis and spice together with fine tannins and elegant acidity embody a classic McLaren Vale Shiraz," says Michael.

Whilst it is rewarding personally to win the Shiraz Challenge, Michael is excited about the awards' recognition of the strength of McLaren Vale as one of the world's leading Shiraz producing regions, with emerging producer Vincognita also of McLaren Vale, winning second place.

The experienced judging panel comprising esteemed industry representatives John Duval, Stephen Henschke, Alan George and Nick Bulleid were particularly impressed with the flavours and structure of Scarpantoni Estate's Block 3 Shiraz.

Judge Stephen Henschke describes the wine as "sweet, juicy plum fruit with a minty and spicy lift, great texture and elegance, finishing with lush velvety tannins."

The judges also commented on the quality shown by 2006 wines generally. Michael agrees saying that 2006 was a fantastic vintage for Scarpantoni reflected in both the Jimmy Watson and Great Australian Shiraz Challenge wins for 2006 wines.

"It was a very classic Mediterranean vintage, warm rather than cool but rarely too hot, allowing the Shiraz to show more restraint and giving the Cabernet excellent varietal definition and structure," comments Michael.

With a recommended retail price of \$30, Scarpantoni Estate's award winning Block 3 and Brothers Block wines can be found in fine wine stores and reputable cafes and restaurants throughout Australia.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Michael Scarpantoni, Winemaker, Scarpantoni Wines Ph: +61 8 8383 0186, 0414 383 018

Jarrod Scott, Marketing Manager, Scarpantoni Wines Ph +61 8 8383 0186, 0404 882 377

Email: scarpantoniwines@bigpond.com, Website: www.scarpantoniwines.com