

Press Release
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Marlborough Sparkling Wine Blitzes Opposition

- **Marlborough wines show their festive spirit**
- **11 of 12 top New Zealand sparklings produced in Marlborough**

Just in time for the Christmas season, Marlborough's sparkling wines have dominated a New Zealand tasting.

In the latest Gourmet Traveller Wine magazine, New Zealand Master of Wine Bob Campbell tasted a wide range of sparkling wines, to deliver his choice of the top dozen. With a wine for each of the 12 days of Christmas, Marlborough could easily be enjoyed on no less than 11 of them.

Each of the wines were rated out of 100 points, with the top sparkling being a tie between the Deutz Marlborough Cuvée Blanc de Blancs 2006 and Nautilus Cuvée Marlborough Brut NV. The Deutz was also the winner of the Sparkling Trophy at the recent Air New Zealand Wine Awards.

The only non Marlborough sparkling to make the top 12 was from Central Otago, on 90 points.

For Marlborough, which has become synonymous with Sauvignon Blanc, the acknowledgement of another style is gratifying, but not unexpected, according to Wine Marlborough's Marketing Manager Marcus Pickens.

"For a long time we have referred to ourselves as the Champagne of the Southern Hemisphere, because of the quality this region is known to deliver. Along with Sauvignon Blanc, we produce award winning Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, Gewürztraminer, Riesling and Pinot Gris. This recent tasting shows how diverse we are and is another feather in the cap for winemakers and grape growers in the region."

Marlborough has been steadily growing in reputation as a producer of high quality sparkling wines, since the first were produced by Frenchman Daniel le Brun back in the mid 80s.

Being a cool climate region, it is perfect for chardonnay and pinot noir grapes, which create many of the sparkling styles.

The full list of Marlborough sparklings to make the top 12, in order are;

Deutz Marlborough Cuvée Blanc de Blancs 2006 – 94 points
Nautilus Cuvée Marlborough Brut NV – 94 points
Cloudy Bay Pelorus NV – 93 points
Cloudy Bay Pelorus 2005 – 93 points
Daniel le Brun Blanc de Blancs 2000 – 93 points
No. 1 Family Estate Cuvée Number 8 NV – 92 points
No. 1 Family Estate Cuvée No. 1 Blanc de Blancs NV – 90 points
No. 1 Family Estate No. 1 Rosé NV – 90 points
Allan Scott Cecilia Reserve Brut NV – 88 points
Huia Blanc de Blanc 2004 – 87 points
Deutz Marlborough Cuvée Brut NV – 86 points

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