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## Marlborough's Jackson Estate brings home *Best Pinot Noir in the World Trophy* from London's IWSC Competition



Jackson Estate's incredible 2015 *Vintage Widow Pinot Noir* has beaten out entries from 90 countries and earned the top trophy - recognising it as the best Pinot Noir in the World, from 100 global judges in the 2019 Awards announced last week.

"This validates everything we have been working towards for years," says Jackson Estate owner and Chairman of Benton Family Wines, John Benton. "Quality has always been our focus across our full range of wines coming out of Jackson Estate in Marlborough and Pask in Hawkes Bay, so to have this level of recognition from such a prestigious Awards Show is something the whole, highly skilled team can celebrate."

Managing Director, Jeff Hart says: "This is a significant result. It not only reassures our own belief in what we know we are doing well, but it adds testament and recognition for our team on a worldwide stage. We are absolutely thrilled to receive the trophy for the best Pinot Noir in the world."

Winemaker Matt Patterson-Green gives nature a share of the recognition for the achievement. "2015 was a special vintage for us; we were 30% down in tonnage but at the same time, we saw an amazing lift in fruit quality - some of the best we have ever seen," says Matt. "We picked beautiful small bunches of grapes from our Gum Emperor and Sommerset vineyards. Bringing together that dense, earthy spice and forest floor flavour, backed up with the texture and weight that Gum Emperor produced, and blending it with the more floral, herbal notes coming out of Sommerset created something very

special. We're a vineyard driven winery, meaning that the vines themselves create what's special ... and we let palette drive the development of the wine, not chemistry."

Although famed as a region for some of the world's best Sauvignon Blanc, a growing recognition for outstanding Pinot Noirs produced in Marlborough will be confirmed by this award. Jeff Hart is excited by the new standard this sets for Jackson Estate and for what's coming next.

"We love this highly qualified recognition, and we know that it represents a significant opportunity for Jackson Estate and Pask to continue to excel across our full range of wines," says Jeff. "To be honest, there is not a lot of the Vintage Widow 2015 left so we need to manage that carefully. The great news is that subsequent vintages are reaching similar standards and the 2019 harvest is showing very similar characteristics to the 15. This year could definitely be a challenger to what is already the highest award a Pinot Noir can receive."

"Our ongoing mission to build a Pinot specific winery and cellar door, and utilising our Waihopai valley vineyards has helped bring this wonderful accolade to life. With cellaring potential of 15 years, it is still early days for this wonderful wine," says Jeff.

**Jackson Estate's 2015 Vintage Widow** is available from good wine retailers and direct from the winery's online store: [www.jacksonestate.co.nz](http://www.jacksonestate.co.nz)

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