



PRESS RELEASE – 1st December 2008

Most Outstanding Wine Brand (under 300t) awarded to Clairault Winery of Margaret River

The night of all nights for the Western Australian Wine Industry was held last Friday, 21st November 2008, at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. The 2008 Chamber of Commerce & Industry WA Wine Industry Awards is annual celebration of industry businesses and personnel who have excelled under a broad range of areas.

WIAWA Chief Executive Officer Sue Vidovich said “We are delighted at the standard of entries received this year, and love to celebrate our own at this event,” Mrs Vidovich said. “These awards aim to recognize excellence in all aspects of the wine industry and are reflective of what we aim to achieve - premium quality and excellence at every stage of the winemaking, marketing and selling process.”

Clairault proudly accepted the award for the Most Outstanding Wine Brand (Crushing less Than 300T) which was sponsored by Portavin Integrated Wine Services. In accepting the award, Bill Martin the Managing Director of Clairault had these comments, “It is always an honour to be recognised by your peers in an industry, especially one as competitive as ours. This achievement is well deserved recognition for brand Clairault and all those behind it.”

Ends

Photos of Bill Martin accepting the award are available upon request. For more information visit www.clairault.com or contact:

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Last twelve months for Clairault

What an amazing twelve months it has been for Clairault Wines. The following awards are recognition for many of the improved practices that we have implemented in our vineyard in recent years. The move to low intervention techniques has meant that no synthetic fertilizers or pesticides are used in our vineyard. The results of these practices are showing through in the enhanced quality of the fruit that is coming from our vines. This combined with the skills of our Winemaker, Will Shields, have led us to produce award winning wines, that are now receiving the recognition that they truly deserve.

The Perth Royal Show in September 2007 awarded Clairault wines 3 silver medals and 2 bronze. In October last year, our 2007 Semillon Sauvignon Blanc was awarded a gold medal and the trophy for the best white wine blend at the 2007 Royal Adelaide Wine Show, along with 2 silver



medals and 5 bronze. Then in November 2007, Clairault Wines was awarded the Trophy at the Qantas WA Wine Show for the “Most Successful Exhibitor” (under 250 tonnes) for the 1 gold, 4 silver and 6 bronze medals.

In March 2008 the results were announced for the 2008 Sydney International Wine Competition where Clairault was awarded 2 top 100's and 3 blue gold medals. At the 2008 Macquarie Bank Sydney Royal Wine Show, Clairault was awarded 2 silver and 4 bronze medals. In May of this year, Clairault was the most successful West Australian wine brand at the 2008 International Wine Challenge in London, where we were awarded two trophies (Best Australian Sauvignon Blanc and Best West Australian Red Wine for our 2007 Sauvignon Blanc and our 2004 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon respectively), two gold medals, three silver medals and four bronze medals for our wines. In June, we were again the most successful West Australian wine brand at the 2008 Decanter World Wine awards, collecting a total of 9 medals. Being 2 silver, 6 bronze and 1 commended.

The recent publication of the 2009 edition of the James Halliday Australian Wine Companion has seen Clairault Winery awarded with the prestigious 5 star rating (for the first time in our history). Indeed, James Halliday was so impressed with our wines that our 2005 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (just released) was awarded 95 points (out of a possible 100), putting it into equal 2nd position, in company with the best Cabernet Sauvignons in Australia. Also, our 2006 Estate Chardonnay was given 94 points, following the 94 points awarded to the 2005 vintage of this wine in last year's Wine Companion. In addition to this, Halliday rated eight of our wines with scores of 90 points or above.

The 2008 IGA Perth Royal Wine Show also proved successful as Clairault was awarded Gold for the 2006 Estate Chardonnay, one silver and four bronze medals. At the more recent 2008 Royal Melbourne Wine Show the Estate Chardonnay 2007 won a Gold medal, along with two silver and two bronze medals.

And just in the last week, Clairault's 2007 Estate Chardonnay has collected a Trophy for the Best Chardonnay, at the 2008 Macquarie Margaret River Wine Show. Along with a Top 100 rating and a Blue Gold medal (3rd consecutive year) for the Clairault 2008 Semillon Sauvignon Blanc and a highly commended for the 2008 Sauvignon Blanc at the 2009 Sydney International Wine Competition! In addition to the above accolades, Clairault wines have also received many fantastic reviews by well respected wine critics and journalists.

Clairault Vineyards

Owned by the Martin family since 1999, there have been many improvements and upgrades at Clairault over this time. In the Vineyard, which is managed by youngest son Brian Martin, this has involved the introduction of biological farming, low intervention approach, investment into mature vine management and the development of the vineyard from 30 to 120 acres. These environmentally responsible vineyard management practices will enable Clairault to practise Sustainable Farming for the Future.

Biological farming is a mix of organic and conventional farming techniques which places a strong emphasis on soil biology. These techniques result in outstandingly high quality crops, while using no herbicide, no insecticides and no synthetic fertilisers.

Compost is made on the estate using natural organic matter and the marc (grape skins and seeds) from harvest, which is then spread under the vines. Compost teas are also brewed, filtered and then sprayed onto the vines and the canopy. The teas are custom made on the estate and replace



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the use of synthetic fertilisers. Basically this becomes a solution of beneficial soil micro-organisms (Yakult for the soil) that will help ensure that the vines roots can access all the necessary minerals from the soil and in turn produce great quality fruit.

Using cover crops in our vineyard is an integral part of sustainable farming. They are made up of several types of grasses, including perennial grasses, which provide numerous different benefits for the soil and the vineyard. After the crops have grown and flowered they are mown and the cuttings are left under the vines to provide a "Green Manure" for the vines to assist in the increase of organic matter, improving the soil structure, suppressing weeds, retaining soil moisture and reducing erosion. The major benefit of growing cover crops is the elimination of the need to use herbicides in the vineyard.

Mulching with straw and the use of cover crops under the vines in other blocks creates a natural mulch layer, which will eventually break down and provide organic material for the soil, hence developing the soil structure. It also helps to retain moisture over the warmer months.

The low intervention approach is the practice that builds up the health and immune system of the whole vineyard, hence reducing the risks of pest and disease outbreaks.