

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Craggy Range Earns Global Recognition with Platinum and Two Gold Awards at 2026 Decanter World Wine Awards**

Craggy Range is honoured to announce that three wines have earned prestigious accolades at the 2026 Decanter World Wine Awards (DWWA), the world's largest and most rigorously judged wine competition. The 2025 Sauvignon Blanc, Te Muna, Martinborough was awarded Platinum with 97 points, while the 2024 Syrah, Gimblett Gravels, Hawke's Bay (96 points) and 2024 Chardonnay, Gimblett Gravels, Hawke's Bay (95 points) each earned Gold.

Now in its 23rd year, DWWA 2026 saw close to 17,000 wines from 57 countries blind-tasted by 245 of the world's leading wine judges. Each wine is tasted multiple times across regional, Platinum and Best in Show rounds before a final result is reached. Of the full field, around 1% of wines globally reached Platinum status in this year's competition, with just eight New Zealand wines recognised at this level – three of these were from the small, yet increasingly influential Martinborough wine region.

According to DWWA, "During Platinum judging, the wines are all of an extraordinary quality because the regional panels have already done so much work and picked up the best of each category," explains Co-Chair Beth Willard. "Here, what we're doing is trying to pick up the best of the best. It's really exciting because you have wines with amazing regional and varietal definition."

"These results affirm Craggy Range's position among the world's most awarded wine estates, and put a spotlight on the extraordinary potential of our Estate Vineyards in both Te Muna, Martinborough and Gimblett Gravels, Hawke's Bay," said Chief Winemaker Ben Tombs.

Craggy Range's Te Muna Sauvignon Blanc is known for its refined aromatics, elegant complexity and saline minerality – making it exceptionally food-friendly with bright acidity, low residual sugar, and a more complex palate than typical New Zealand Sauvignon Blancs. Te Muna's alluvial and limestone soils, wide diurnal temperature shifts and exposed, wind-swept conditions produce small, thick-skinned berries of remarkable purity and concentration. The 2025 vintage saw a larger hand-picked component, more barrel fermentation and extended lees ageing, lending greater aromatic depth without adding structural weight.

"The seasonal variances of Te Muna keep us on our toes, and each vintage brings nuance and new challenges that we tackle with precision viticulture techniques and intuitive winemaking – always striving to take this unique expression of Sauvignon Blanc to new heights," comments Ben Tombs.

Two wines from the 2024 Gimblett Gravels vintage were also recognised with Gold medals, reflecting what was an exceptional growing season for the region," The 2024 vintage in Gimblett Gravels will be remembered as one of the finest in recent years, the quality and character of these wines is incredible, and very expressive of place." Ben Tombs said.

Craggy Range's Chardonnay style has evolved toward greater restraint and purity: picking slightly earlier preserves freshness and energy, while a lighter hand with oak keeps the focus on fruit integrity and clarity. "Hawke's Bay continues to deliver fresh, nuanced, expressive Chardonnay, and the 2024 vintage is a fine example of that." Ben Tombs added.

Syrah is synonymous with the Gimblett Gravels, and the variety's natural affinity with this gravelly, free-draining terroir came through clearly in 2024. The growing season delivered the ripeness and plushness that Craggy Range seeks in Syrah, while still holding onto the aromatic lift and vibrant fruit character that makes its Gimblett Gravels site so distinctive.

These latest recognitions add to Craggy Range's growing list of international accolades. As the only New Zealand winery to have ever received three Best in Show accolades from the Decanter World Wine Awards, Craggy Range further cements its reputation as one of the country's most respected family-owned wineries.

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### **About Craggy Range Winery & Vineyards**

Founded beneath the dramatic silhouette of Te Mata Peak in 1998, Terry and Mary Peabody established the estate with an uncompromising ambition: to craft wines of enduring reputation and a profound sense of place.

In commitment to that vision, the family placed the winery into a 1,000-year trust. This is a rare expression of custodianship designed to protect the land, the vineyards, and their founding philosophy for generations to come.

Today, Craggy Range farms two distinguished Estate vineyards: Gimblett Gravels in Hawke's Bay and Te Muna Road in Martinborough. Each site was selected for its exceptional soils, climate, and individuality, yielding wines defined by precision, purity, and complexity.