

Tonnellerie de Mercurey 2018 New Zealand Young Winemaker of the Year

Tonnellerie de Mercurey is the Supreme National Sponsor of the 2018 New Zealand Young Winemaker of the Year competition: celebrating young winemaking talent in New Zealand.

This year marks the fourth national competition which is not only about helping the contestants to grow, but also supporting the next generation of winemakers who will take New Zealand wine to even higher levels in the future. It was exciting to see a number of contestants coming back for a second attempt and we look forward to them possibly returning again for the 2019 competition. Also returning to the competition (in a new capacity) were many of the previous contestants who have joined the organising committee.

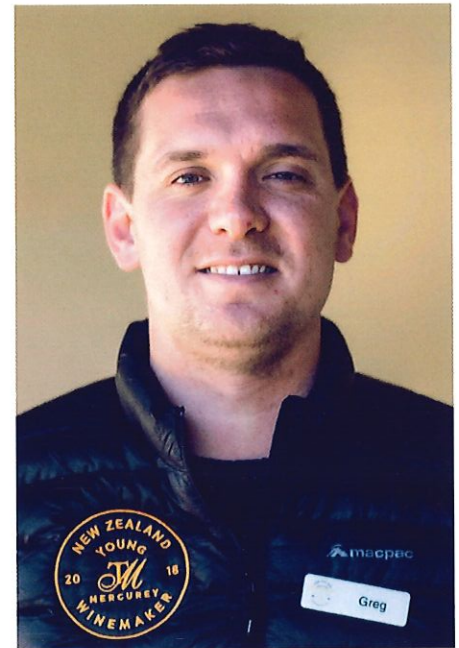
Tonnellerie de Mercurey is proud to be the naming rights sponsor and quite unique about Mercurey is the fact that it is owned by a family of saw millers who originally had their stave mill, NT-

Bois, and later purchased the (then very small at 1-2 barrels per day) Mercurey cooperage in the early 1990's, adding both a brand and value to their staves. The stave mill is based in the southern part of Champagne and still sells 50% of its staves to other coopers. Nicolas Tarteret, the owner, has always been very active in sourcing wood for consistency of grain and colour, soil type, terrain, and homogeneity. They have a singular vertical supply integration from terroir, forest, wood age selections, to the final barrel and its toasting options.

Two regional events were held, one in each island, to find the final 4 young winemakers who would then go on to compete in the national final in Auckland, hosted at Villa Maria winery.



MERCUREY
FRANCE



2018 Tonnellerie de Mercurey New Zealand Young Winemaker of the Year - **Greg Lane**

As with the previous year's events there were a variety of tests and challenges that allowed the judges to assess the level of knowledge and skill possessed by each winemaker. There were many practical and theoretical exercises, including the light hearted "Vinolympics" and the essential forklift obstacle course.

Each contestant was also asked to create a rosé blend from a series of wines provided to them, run a spectrum of lab analyses on the components, and to then subsequently present the blended wine to a panel of judges. The public in attendance at the regional competition evenings were asked to vote for their preference to find the winner of the



Marcel Giesen, Greg Lane,
and Sherwyn Veldhuizen

People's Choice award. The range of wines and perspectives spoke to the talent and diversity in this field of young winemakers.

Greg Lane (Foley Family Wines), Kelly Stuart (Cloudy Bay Vineyards) were selected from the South Island competition while Haidee Johnson (Villa Maria), Kate Franklin (Sacred Hill Wines) represented the North.

Our congratulations to the 2018 Tonnellerie de Mercurey New Zealand Young Winemaker of the Year Greg Lane from Foley Family Wines and Winemaker at Grove Mill. Greg will join the 2018 Bayer New Zealand Young Viticulturist of the Year at the new New Zealand Wine

of the Year Awards ceremony to be held in November as well as receiving a travel grant to visit the Cooperage in Burgundy and the Stave Mill in Champagne.

The competition continues to gain momentum, with increases in competitor numbers and industry awareness, going forward we are happy that New Zealand Winegrowers will have an increased level of participation in the event to help cement it in the annual calendar of national wine events. We look forward to it highlighting the achievements of our young people.



Organisers, committee members, and revellers at the final award dinner - Georgie Leach, Spring Timlin, Abigail Maxwell, Sophie Harris, Lauren Swift, Nick Entwistle



Runner up for New Zealand Young Winemaker of the Year - Kelly Stuart



North Island Young Winemaker of the year - Haidee Johnson



Runner up for North Island Young Winemaker of the Year - Kate Franklin

