



NZ'S FRUIT WINE & CIDER AWARDS REVEALED

The annual New Zealand Wine and Cider Awards announced this year's winners in Hastings tonight (Fri 3 Nov) at the Toi Toi Hawkes Bay Arts & Events Centre.

Tasman producer Peckham's Orchard & Cidery "Stoke Red 2020" was crowned Champion Cider, along with the inaugural Champion Producer trophy.

Warkworth based Lothlorien Winery won top Fruit Wine with their Lothlorien Medium Sparkling Apple & Feijoa Fruit Wine.

As ever the quality was extremely high with 17 trophies, 22 gold, 25 silver and 35 bronze medals. A testament to the amazing work done by all the producers who all contribute to New Zealand's outstanding fruit wine and cider industry.

A total of 119 entries from 24 producers were judged over two days by a panel of 6 Senior judges and 2 Associate judges. Chief judge Merophy Hyslop. said it was nice to see producers innovating, and implementing different techniques. "We saw less technical faults, some new interesting ciders and producers test the boundaries with new and exciting products.

Gabe Cook, an internationally renowned cider expert, hosted this year's Awards evening. Hailing from the UK, Gabe is a leading figure in the cider world who last visited New Zealand to host the Awards ceremony of this prestigious competition, five years ago. "It's great to see a real step up in the number of producers and the quality of cider being made, in the intervening period" said Gabe. "I also love the fact that so many of the drinks are unique kiwi: Feijoa wine, Boysenberry flavoured cider and Pohutakawa flavoured cider are drinks that could be made nowhere else in the world!"

The Fruit Wine & Cider Makers Association of NZ represents all commercial non-grape winemakers. Members include cider, fruit wine, vegetable wine, mead, alcoholic ginger beer, alcoholic kombucha and liqueur producers.

RESULTS: 2023 NEW ZEALAND FRUIT WINE AND CIDER AWARDS

Overall champions

The overall champions were selected from the trophy winners in each category.

NZ Champion Cider – Stoke Red 2020, Peckham's Cidery & Orchard (Tasman)

NZ Champion Fruit Wine – Lothlorien Medium Sparkling Apple & Feijoa Fruit Wine, 750ml, Lothlorien Winery (Warkworth)

The producer that demonstrated the best consistency across all entries.

NZ Champion Producer – Peckham's Cidery & Orchard (Tasman)

Trophy winners: Cider

Best Modern Cider – Harvest Crisp Apple Cider, Harvest Cidery (Gisborne)

Best Traditional Cider – Stoke Red 2020, Peckham's Cidery & Orchard (Tasman)

Best Pear Cider (Perry) – Pear Drop 2023, Elemental Cider (Ōtaki)

Best Cider with Berry Fruit – Boysenberry, Peckham's Cidery & Orchard (Tasman)

Best Cider With Non-Berry Fruits – BLACK, Morningcider (Auckland)

Best Cider with Spice, Botanicals or Honey – Pohutukawa Flower 2023, Elemental Cider (Ōtaki)

Best Bottle-Fermented Cider – The Earl's Drop Perry, Tee Pee Cider (Carterton)

Best Specialty Cider – Roasted Apple, Peckham's Cidery & Orchard (Tasman)

Trophy winners: Fruit wine

Best Fruit Wine – Lothlorien Medium Sparkling Apple & Feijoa Fruit Wine, 750ml, Lothlorien Winery (Warkworth)

Best Fortified Fruit Wine or Fruit Liqueur – Roaring Red Boysenberry, Ruahine Ports (Dannevirke)

Best Mead – Rhapsody, Beehave Craft Meadery (Taupo)

Best Kombucha – Berries Alcoholic Kombucha, Kombucha Bros (Nelson)

Best Alcoholic ginger beer/lemonade – Hazy Ginger Beer, Zeffer Cider Co (Hastings)

Packaging (Fruit wine & Cider)– Ranga , Ranga Alcoholic Ginger Beer (Tauranga)

Ends

For further information or to arrange interviews, please contact:

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For photos and captions, see below.

For more information on the NZ Fruit Wine and Cider Awards, full results, including medal winners,, see our [website](#).

PHOTOS:



Jody Scott of Peckham's Cidery & Orchard. Photo: Stu Hussy/NZ Cider



Cider makers from throughout the country at the New Zealand Fruit Wine and Cider Awards in Hastings. Photo: Stu Hussy/NZ Cider.



Gabe Cook, The Ciderologis. Photo: Gabe Cook