



THE NEW ZEALAND FRUIT WINE
& CIDER MAKERS ASSOCIATION

PRESENTS THE

2026 NEW ZEALAND FRUIT WINE & CIDER AWARDS

RESULTS

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JUDGES

Merophy Hyslop (Head Judge)
Nigel Cottle
Lauren Yap
Jack Anderson
Sam Wilson
John Powell

Aynslee Roger (Associate)

STEWARDS

Carmen Gray
Simon Pearce
Tania Gibson

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WELCOME

Welcome to the New Zealand Fruit Wine and Cider Awards 2026!

It's wonderful to have you here in Nelson, which the awards and festival have helped make the home of New Zealand cider and fruit wine. This is always a special occasion, a chance to pause, share a few glasses, and celebrate the passion and creativity that make our industry what it is.

We have seen strong growth in new drink styles, including low and no alcohol beverages and other fruit-based creations. It's inspiring to see how our makers continue to innovate and adapt while staying true to their craft.

Many people have helped make this event possible - Thank you to Carmen Gray, our Head Steward, for coordinating the judging and leading the stewarding team. Feedback this year has been fantastic, with many noting it was the smoothest judging we've had yet, a real credit to Carmen's dedication and organisation.

Thank you to our judges and stewards for giving their time and expertise, and to our sponsors, for their continued support of these awards.

We are delighted to have Alison Blanchett-Sax as our MC for the evening. Alison is a Chartered Accountant and owner of Smart Business Centre here in Nelson. She has supported the Fruit Wine & Cider Makers Association with accounting needs and also has a personal connection to cider by being married to David Sax the former chief cider maker at Redwood Cider, which came with many cider tastings over the years.

Thank you for being part of the awards and thank you for what you do. Congratulations to all our medal and trophy winners. Enjoy the evening, raise a glass, and celebrate another great year for New Zealand fruit wine and cider.

Cheers

Jody Scott
Chairman

FWCMA

Cider New Zealand

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CHAMPION WINNERS

NZ CHAMPION CIDER

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CIDER | **Major Black 2023**
PRODUCER | **Peckham's Cidery & Orchard**

"An outstanding traditional cider full of depth and character - intense apple, warm spice and beautifully judged oak, with a long, satisfying finish."

NZ CHAMPION FRUIT WINE & MEAD

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FRUIT WINE | **Frisky Fallow 2026**
PRODUCER | **Ruahine Ports**

"Deep ruby and bursting with character - rich plum and berries, lifted by vanilla and a beautifully balanced tart edge."

NZ CHAMPION PRODUCER

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PRODUCER | **Elemental Cider**

The Champion Producer award recognises the strength and consistency of a producer's range across the competition. Elemental Cider achieved two category trophies, two Gold and three Silver medals, with medal-winning entries spanning traditional, pear, bottle-fermented, botanical and NZ Origin cider classes. Judges noted fresh fruit character, distinctive floral and spice notes, and well-integrated tannins across the range.

CIDER RESULTS

MODERN CIDER

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TROPHY WINNER

CIDER | Crisp Apple PRODUCER | Zeffer

"A bright, refreshing burst of apple and citrus - lively bubbles, delicate blossom and a refreshing, well-balanced palate."

MODERN CIDER - OFF-DRY

MEDAL	CIDER	PRODUCER
Silver	Crisp Apple	Zeffer
Silver	K.I.S.S.	Capital Cider Co.
Bronze	Classic Apple	The Cider Factorie

MODERN CIDER - MEDIUM

MEDAL	CIDER	PRODUCER
Silver	Cider	Morningcider
Silver	Easy Rider	Capital Cider Co.

CIDER RESULTS

TRADITIONAL CIDER

ALEX PECKHAM MEMORIAL TROPHY WINNER

CIDER | Major Black 2023
PRODUCER | Peckham's Cidery & Orchard

"Caramel, spice and toasted oak wrapped around vibrant apple fruit - bold, complex and wonderfully balanced."

TRADITIONAL CIDER - DRY

MEDAL	CIDER	PRODUCER
Gold	Reserve Dry	Peckham's Cidery & Orchard
Silver	Kingston Black	Peckham's Cidery & Orchard
Silver	Totally Oaked 2025	Elemental Cider

TRADITIONAL CIDER - OFF-DRY

MEDAL	CIDER	PRODUCER
Gold	Major Black 2023	Peckham's Cidery & Orchard
Silver	Classic Apple	Peckham's Cidery & Orchard
Bronze	Gold Digga	Ryder Cyder

TRADITIONAL CIDER - MEDIUM

MEDAL	CIDER	PRODUCER
Bronze	Hazy Apple	Peckham's Cidery & Orchard

CIDER RESULTS

PEAR CIDER / PERRY

MEDAL	CIDER	PRODUCER
Silver	Pear Drop 2026	Elemental Cider

CIDER WITH FRUIT

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TROPHY WINNER

CIDER | Feijoa Cider PRODUCER | Mata Brewery

"Feijoa leads the way - fresh, fragrant and full-flavoured, with lively acidity, green apple and a bright citrus lift."

MEDAL	CIDER	PRODUCER
Gold	Feijoa Cider	Mata Brewery
Gold	Golden Kiwi	Mata Brewery
Silver	Peach & Passionfruit with Cider	Orchard Thieves
Silver	Scrumpy & Tropical	Old Mout
Silver	Mango Mimosa	Good George Brewing
Silver	Doris Plum Cider	Good George Brewing
Bronze	Feijoa with Apple	The Cider Factorie

CIDER RESULTS

CIDER WITH BERRIES

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TROPHY WINNER

CIDER | Boysenberry PRODUCER | Peckham's Cidery & Orchard

"A bold splash of ripe boysenberry -juicy, vibrant and beautifully balanced, with a fresh tang and gentle tannins on the finish."

MEDAL	CIDER	PRODUCER
Gold	Boysenberry	Peckham's Cidery & Orchard
Silver	Strawberry Daiquiri	Good George Brewing
Silver	Blueberry Cider	Mamaku Blue
Silver	BLACK	Morningcider
Silver	Scrumpy & Blackcurrant	Old Mout
Bronze	Love & Money	Capital Cider Co.
Bronze	Blueberry and Apple Cider	Good George Brewing
Bronze	Purple Haze 2026	Old Mill Cider
Bronze	Merry Berry	Mata Brewery
Bronze	Strawberry Rosé	Morningcider
Bronze	Red Berries	Orchard Thieves

CIDER RESULTS

BOTTLE FERMENTED CIDER

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TROPHY WINNER

CIDER | Dry As 2026 PRODUCER | Elemental Cider

"Fresh green apple and citrus meet delicate florals, with hints of honey and brioche - lifted by lively bubbles and a beautifully soft mousse."

MEDAL	CIDER	PRODUCER
Gold	Dry As 2026	Elemental Cider
Bronze	The Earl's Drop Yarlington Mill Single Vintage 2024	TeePee Cider Ltd.

CIDER RESULTS

CIDER WITH HOPS, SPICES, OR BOTANICALS

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TROPHY WINNER

CIDER | Pohutukawa Flower 2026 PRODUCER | Elemental Cider

"Bold florals, baked apple and caramel meet a hint of spice - a distinctive cider with real depth and a long, dry finish"

CIDER WITH SPICES OR BOTANICALS

MEDAL	CIDER	PRODUCER
Gold	Pohutukawa Flower 2026	Elemental Cider
Silver	Peace o Pie Cider	Morningcider
Silver	Citrus & Ginger 2026	Old Mill Cider
Silver	Winning	Capital Cider Co.
Silver	SPICY Margarita	Morningcider
Bronze	Wildflower	Peckham's Cidery & Orchard
Bronze	Pavlova Cider	Morningcider

CIDER WITH HOPS

MEDAL	CIDER	PRODUCER
Silver	Fresh Hop Apple IPA	Morningcider

CIDER RESULTS

SPECIALTY CIDER

MEDAL	CIDER	PRODUCER
Silver	Roasted Apple	Peckham's Cidery & Orchard

LOW/ZERO ALCOHOL CIDER OR PERRY

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TROPHY WINNER

CIDER | Feijoa 1.0 PRODUCER | The Cider Factorie

"All the feijoa flavour, just a fraction of the alcohol - bright, juicy and refreshing, with a lively citrus lift."

MEDAL	CIDER	PRODUCER
Gold	Feijoa 1.0	The Cider Factorie
Gold	Apple Zero	Peckham's Cidery & Orchard
Silver	Red 1.0	The Cider Factorie
Silver	Non-Alcoholic Doris Plum Cider	Good George Brewing
Silver	0% Passionfruit	Zeffer
Bronze	Zero Crisp Apple	Old Mill Cider
Bronze	0% Crisp Apple	Morningcider

CIDER RESULTS

NZ ORIGIN CIDER

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TROPHY WINNER

CIDER | Āporo Secco 2026 PRODUCER | The Cider Factorie

"Orchard freshness with a sparkling flourish - fragrant apple blossom, lively citrus and a soft mousse combine in a beautifully poised cider."

MEDAL	CIDER	PRODUCER
Gold	Āporo Secco 2026	The Cider Factorie
Gold	Āporo Secco Rosé 2026	The Cider Factorie
Silver	Apple Blossom 2025	Elemental Cider
Silver	Awa. Premium Apple Cider	Tātau Tātau Commercial

FRUIT WINE RESULTS

TABLE FRUIT WINE

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TROPHY WINNER

TABLE WINE | Winter Magic - Plum Mulled Wine
PRODUCER | Mirabelle Fruit Wine

"Rich plum, sweet orange and warming spice come together in a wonderfully inviting mulled wine"

TABLE WINE - STILL

MEDAL	WINE	PRODUCER
Gold	Winter Magic - Plum Mulled Wine	Mirabelle Fruit Wine
Silver	Blueberry Wine	Mamaku Blue
Bronze	Strawberry Wine	Windermere

TABLE WINE - SPARKLING

MEDAL	WINE	PRODUCER
Silver	Sweet Harmony - Sparkling Feijoa and Luisa Plum Fruit Wine	Mirabelle Fruit Wine
Bronze	Reserve Sparkling Feijoa & Apple Fruit Wine	Lothlorien Winery Ltd
Bronze	Dry Sparkling Apple & Feijoa Fruit Wine	Lothlorien Winery Ltd
Bronze	Medium Sparkling Apple & Feijoa Fruit Wine	Lothlorien Winery Ltd

FRUIT WINE RESULTS

FORTIFIED FRUIT WINE / FRUIT LIQUEUR

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TROPHY WINNER

WINE | Frisky Fallow PRODUCER | Ruahine Ports

"Luscious plum, ripe berries and a hint of vanilla - intense, generous and full of charm, with sweetness and tartness in harmony."

MEDAL	WINE	PRODUCER
Gold	Frisky Fallow	Ruahine Ports
Silver	Wild Wapiti Blackberry	Ruahine Ports
Silver	Roaring Red Boysenberry	Ruahine Ports
Silver	Grumpy Goose	Ruahine Ports
Silver	The Roar	Ruahine Ports
Silver	Feijoa & Manuka Honey Liqueur	Lothlorien Winery Ltd
Bronze	Plump Pheasant Plum	Ruahine Ports

FRUIT WINE RESULTS

ALCOHOLIC SOFT DRINK

SELTZER & SPRITZER STYLE FRUIT WINE

MEDAL	NAME	PRODUCER
Bronze	Limoncello Spritz	Zeffer
Bronze	Bramble Spritz	Zeffer

ALCOHOLIC LEMONADE

MEDAL	NAME	PRODUCER
Bronze	Lemony Pickett	The Cider Factorie
Bronze	Old Fashioned Hard Lemonade	Morningcider
Bronze	Alcoholic Classic Lemonade	Zeffer

ALCOHOLIC GINGER BEER

MEDAL	NAME	PRODUCER
Bronze	Hazy Gingerbeer	Zeffer
Bronze	Ginja Ninja	Mata Brewery

LOW / ZERO ALCOHOL FRUIT WINES

MEDAL	WINE	PRODUCER
Gold	Zero Alcohol Sparkling Feijoa Fruit Wine	Lothlorien Winery Ltd.

MEAD

MEDAL	MEAD	PRODUCER
Bronze	2025 Mānuka Special Reserve	Undisturbed
Bronze	Mulled Mānuka Mead	Undisturbed

THE NEW ZEALAND

CIDER FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 2027
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