



**Press Release from Coal Pit Vineyard
14 October 2008**

Coal Pit *Tiwha* Pinot Noir Earns Gold at Liquorland Top 100 Competition

The Coal Pit *Tiwha* Pinot Noir 2007 has earned a gold medal at New Zealand's largest commercial wine competition, the Liquorland Top 100.

Now in its 15th year, the 2008 Liquorland Top 100 saw a record number of entries. Twenty local and international judges, led by chief wine judge Mike DeGaris, judged 1,476 wines over three days at the Westpac Stadium in Wellington.

Only 11 Pinot Noirs earned the gold medal distinction.

The fruit for this wine was sourced entirely from the Coal Pit Vineyard estate on Coal Pit Road in Gibbston Valley, Central Otago, and was crafted by winemaker Lynn Horton.

Originally from Central Otago, Horton graduated from Lincoln University and subsequently worked in California, Austria, and Martinborough (NZ) before returning to the region and joining Coal Pit. Her husband, Gary Crabbe, is the company's viticulturist.

A 30-tonne winery designed by award-winning architect Chris Kelly of the Architecture Workshop in Wellington is currently being constructed on the property. Completion is slated for late 2008 and a cellar door facility is expected to be in open in time for the summer season.

The vineyard takes its name from a nearby historical site which was a familiar landmark for musterers, goldminers and pioneers who, as they passed over the Coal Pit Saddle, sourced coal from the pit. The coal was bagged at the pit, loaded on to drays and brought down Coal Pit Road to the valley.

While the first commercial vintage was in 2006, half of the estate was planted in 1994, making it of the oldest vineyards in the Gibbston Valley sub-region.

With only 360 cases left of this 2007 Pinot the wine can be purchased on line (www.coalpitwine.com) or visit the new on-site winery from December 1st – by appointment ph: 021 362 773.

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Liquorland Top 100: www.top100.co.nz