



**Press Release from Coal Pit Vineyard
24 June 2008**

Coal Pit *Cinquante* Sauvignon Blanc wins Gold in San Francisco

The Coal Pit *Cinquante* Sauvignon Blanc 2007 has earned a gold medal at the San Francisco International Wine Competition. Now in its 28th year, it is the largest, most influential wine competition in America, judged by a prestigious panel of nationally recognized wine experts.

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 signing on with Coal Pit. Her husband, Gary Crabbe, is the company's viticulturist.

The Coal Pit Sauvignon Blanc was also recently rated by John Hawkesby on Radio NZ as "absolutely divine... a Sauvignon with a bit of style, a bit of sophistication and a bit of complexity."

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

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.

Planted in 1994, it is one of the oldest vineyards in the Gibbston Valley sub-region.

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