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GIMBLETT GRAVELS TO LAUNCH ANNUAL VINTAGE SELECTION

Twelve wines, selected by Andrew Caillard MW, to showcase Gimblett Gravels 2008 vintage.

It may appear that the Gimblett Gravels Winegrowers Association (GGWA) has been lying low since the spectacular Masterclass successes in Taupo and London in 2008 and 2009, respectively.

In reality, the Association has been quietly plotting the next phase in its campaign to promote Gimblett Gravels wines around the globe.

As, newly appointed Chairman, Nick Aleksich explains, “The Taupo and London Masterclasses definitely helped put Gimblett Gravels wines on the International map. Now that we have everyone’s attention, the next phase is keeping them informed, in a meaningful way, with a snapshot of each successive vintage.”

The first of several initiatives to be launched over coming months is the creation of the Annual Vintage Selection of 12 Gimblett Gravels red wines, independently selected by an internationally respected wine critic. Andrew Caillard, Master of Wine and Director of Sydney based auction house, Langtons, was pleased to be involved in the inaugural selection of wines from the 2008 vintage.

The result is a combination of 5 blended red wines and 7 Syrahs selected from submissions made by the GGWA members.

The 2008 Gimblett Gravels Annual Vintage selection comprises the following wines (in alphabetical order):

Blended Reds	Syrahs
Church Road Cuve Merlot 2008	Craggy Range Gimblett Gravels Vineyard Syrah 2008
Church Road Reserve Merlot Cabernet 2008	Sacred Hill Deerstalkers Syrah 2008
Craggy Range The Quarry 2008	Squawking Magpie Stoned Crow Syrah 2008
Esk Valley Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Malbec 2008	Trinity Hill Gimblett Gravels Syrah 2008
Trinity Hill The Gimblett 2008	Two Gates Vineyard Syrah 2008
	Unison Syrah 2008
	Vidal Syrah 2008

The Gimblett Gravels is relatively small in size at just 800ha, but large in stature. Defined by deep stony free-draining soils within inland Hawke's Bay, New Zealand, it enjoys a warm maritime climate and an enviable reputation for producing stunning world-class Bordeaux varietal reds and Syrah.

Conveying this message globally was succinctly executed through the milestone Taupo and London masterclasses, leading Gimblett Gravels to be proclaimed by distinguished wine commentators James Halliday as "not just a special site, it is a sacred site", and Jancis Robinson as " ..everyone admitted it was by no means blindingly obvious where each wine came from and I think we all learnt just how serious a challenger Gimblett Gravels in Hawke's Bay can be".

GGWA plans to continue building on their success story with the Annual Vintage Selection to be sent out, early in the New Year, to key wine media and influencers around the world. As Nick Aleksich adds, "Our aim is that the Annual Vintage Selection will help provide a snapshot as to where Gimblett Gravels wines stand in any given year. We hope that, with successive years, the Annual Vintage Selection will help chart the evolution and progression of our wines from this unique terroir."

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