



MEDIA RELEASE  
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## **Chinese experts judge Marisco wines best with Chinese food** ***Marisco Vineyards wins two trophies at Hong Kong International Wine & Spirit Competition***

Marlborough winery Marisco Vineyards has been awarded two prestigious trophies for the wines best matched with two iconic Chinese dishes—Cantonese Dim Sum and Braised Abalone (Paua)—at the Cathay Pacific Hong Kong International Wine & Spirit Competition.

*The Ned Pinot Gris 2013* won the trophy for the best Cantonese Dim Sum match because it pairs equally well with steamed, deep-fried and stewed savoury items from the traditional dim sum trolley. *The King's Bastard Chardonnay 2012* won the best Braised Abalone match for its resolved tannins, complexity and concentration of flavour.

“These iconic dishes are such an integral part of Chinese culture that it is deeply rewarding and humbling to have our wines chosen as the perfect pairings,” says Marisco Vineyards Proprietor and Chief Winemaker, Brent Marris.

The Cathay Pacific Hong Kong International Wine & Spirit Competition is run in partnership with the London-based International Wine & Spirit Competition, the world’s premier platform for recognising wine quality. Judging is conducted by Asia’s most esteemed wine judges from China, Singapore, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and India, including the Competition’s Director and Master of Wine, Hong Kong-based Debra Meiburg MW and Chinese food and wine expert Simon Tam.

“This competition is famous for its unique focus on finding the best wines for the Asian market, so I have no doubt that these trophies will help cement our position as one of New Zealand’s leading wine brands in China,” says Marris.

Marisco Vineyards has been investing heavily in China since mid-2011 when it signed a national distribution agreement with Tianjin Dynasty International Wine Co.

“Despite having a number of early successes, China is still an emerging market for us. The key to our success there will be building deep and lasting relationships by servicing the market with regular visits, and educating the Chinese wine drinkers about New Zealand wine, how great it is and how well it matches their cuisine,” Marris says.

Wines from Marisco Vineyards’ Waihopai Valley property have now won 55 gold medals and nine trophies over the past three years. Last month the company won ten double-gold and gold medals at the China Wine Awards, as well as the trophy for New Zealand Wine Producer of the Year.

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