

5<sup>th</sup> December 2005

## New Winery For Rockburn Wines



Rockburn Wines Ltd of Central Otago has begun construction of its new winery in McNulty Road Cromwell, designed to process 200 tonnes of fruit with the potential to expand to 500 tonnes.

It has also appointed a new winemaker, Malcolm Francis (pictured), who has been with iconic winery Felton Road as Assistant Wine Maker for the past four years. “This is a very exciting period for Rockburn and provides me with a great deal of opportunity” Malcolm said. “Rockburn's track record under its previous winemaker, Rudi Bauer, has been 1st class and to have the opportunity to now focus that even further with a new purpose-built winery is a huge buzz”.



The winery is due for commissioning early next year in time for the 2006 vintage. “Early signs are very promising. We certainly plan to be ready for a perfect vintage” he said.

Rockburn has achieved many notable accolades both within New Zealand and from its export markets. Last year its 2002 Pinot Noir won the coveted Winestate Magazine “Wine of the Year” for Pinot Noir. You can find the 2002 Pinot Noir in the first class cabin on Air New Zealand London to New York leg, and with noted commentators such as Jancis Robinson from the UK awarding the 2002 Pinot Noir 18 points from a possible 20 Rockburn Wines is attracting attention in all the right places.

More recently the 2003 Pinot Noir received Gold medals in both the 2004 Air New Zealand Wine Awards and the 2005 New

Zealand International Wine Show, and was listed by Bob Campbell as one of his top 10 favorite Pinot Noirs.

Rockburn decided to locate their winery centrally between its two vineyards; the older 8 hectare site is located on Gibbston Valley's Back Road, and the younger 33 hectare planting occupies a Parkburn terrace above Lake Dunstan. “Cromwell is fast becoming the hub for the wine making and downstream processing for all of Central Otago's wine activities, so it made sense to be part of that infrastructure” said Mr Francis. “Ours will be a commercial winery, where you'll be able to taste the very best Central has to offer and see a modern winery with traditional values in action”.

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