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Media Release: Christchurch Winery Sparkles with award for Best Wine Tourism Restaurant

Melton Estate, a boutique winery in West Melton Christchurch is toasting its success after being judged Best Wine Tourism Restaurant in Christchurch / South Island for the Great Wine Capitals of the World 2012 Wine Tourism Awards.

The award recognized a strong focus by Melton Estate on wine hospitality. Owner Tracy Caunter comments "We've always focused on providing the very best service we can as every day we are judged by our customers on our service, food and wine. Following the earthquakes in Christchurch wine tourism was probably the last thing on people's minds. However we decided to do even more by offering winery events and shows so that Christchurch people could escape, even for an afternoon. The feedback we received was amazing".

Melton Estate was encouraged by Christchurch and Canterbury Tourism to enter in to the awards. "This is the first major award we have won, and is a positive sign for the growing wine business in Canterbury", says Caunter.

Chief Judge Dr Joanna Fountain commented on the award: "Melton Estate are worthy winners in this category this year; they have overcome regional adversity to provide a restaurant and venue offering high quality food and a strong hospitality atmosphere," Dr Fountain says. "There is little doubt that the presence of Melton Estate is providing real benefits for the local community and Canterbury region as a whole."

Melton Estate is currently expanding to meet the demand for its restaurant and event venue. "Through the winter we have been busy with conference and events, and on the weekends with our winery lunch service. Our summer season is looking very good and we decided to invest further in our facilities to meet the demand."

A new outdoor event building is under construction and due for completion in December. The "Pavilion" will provide a new event space for shows, winery lunches and as a wedding chapel. New landscaping connects the winery building to the lawns and vineyards. A wine trail through the vineyard is also being planned.

For more information including media content and images:

Philip Caunter
Melton Estate
Phone: 03 347 4965
Email: philip@meltonestate.co.nz



ABOUT MELTON ESTATE

Melton Estate is a boutique winery featuring a modern restaurant and event venue set amongst vines on 12 acres in West Melton. Melton Estate is an easy 20 minute drive west of Christchurch, and only 10 minutes from the airport.

Melton Estate has been recently judged Best Wine Tourism Restaurant in the 2012 Great Wine Capitals of the World Wine Tourism Awards.

Melton Estate is set amongst the vines, with an expansive deck overlooking the vineyards and is surrounded by lawns making it a great place to visit so close to Christchurch city. The newly built Banquet Room can seat 150 guests, plus there are two additional connected event / meeting rooms. Construction is underway on the "Pavilion" building – a new outdoor event space for winery dining, events and as a wedding chapel, plus associated landscaping to connect to the existing buildings, lawns and vineyards.

Guests can sample local wines that include: Pinot Gris, Pinot Noir, Riesling, Chardonnay, Rosé, Sauvignon Blanc, and the award-winning Sparkling Riesling known as "Summer Love". Our modern restaurant serves great food that is matched to these handcrafted boutique wines. The restaurant has an extensive menu including platters, salads and main meals such as lamb rack. A range of homemade tasty desserts are a highlight. A children's menu is also available. There is an excellent array of options for gluten-free and vegetarian guests.

Melton Estate regularly hosts weddings, family celebrations, corporate meetings and Christmas parties as well as live shows, special dinners and wine events. Full conference facilities are available. The Winery Restaurant and Cellar Door is open all year on Thursday to Sunday from 10am to 5pm, and otherwise by arrangement for corporate and family events.

Contact details follow:

Philip and Tracy Caunter
Melton Estate
Weedons Ross Road
West Melton
Christchurch 7675

Phone: 347 4968
Email: info@meltonestate.co.nz
Web: www.meltonestate.co.nz
FB: www.facebook.com/meltonestate

