



Contact: P.J. Ochlan  
707.259.1110 :: c.310.980.7648  
pj@cobblestonewine.com

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## **Cobblestone's Inaugural Pinot Noir Named New Zealand's #1 Wine Trophies Travel to U.S. for First Time**

(Napa, CA) 30 August 2010 – For the debut Pinot Noir from its estate vineyard in Martinborough, New Zealand, family-owned Cobblestone Vineyards has been awarded the highly coveted trophies for both Champion Pinot Noir as well as the overall Champion Wine of the Show at the 2010 Romeo Bragato Wine Awards in New Zealand.

The California-based business launched its New Zealand Pinot Noir project in 2008. At the time, Cobblestone General Manager P.J. Ochlan stated: “As New Zealand is considered the most remote developed country in the world, we’ve quite literally gone to the ends of the Earth to make the finest Pinot imaginable.” Now Ochlan adds: “These awards are an overwhelming and deeply appreciated recognition of those efforts.”

“We believed in New Zealand and New Zealand believes in us,” says Cobblestone owner Saul Levine. “It is incredibly gratifying to receive this prestigious recognition.”

With a Gold Medal placing Cobblestone in the running for the trophies, Ochlan traveled last-minute to attend the Bragato Awards ceremony on Saturday night in Blenheim (Marlborough), New Zealand.

“Cobblestone produces varietal wines from our own single-vineyard estates, which we develop in what we feel are the ultimate locations for the grape varieties we grow” Ochlan said in his acceptance of the trophies. “We’re here because we believe the world’s best Pinot is from New Zealand.”

Ochlan further joked, “It’s a long commute, but when you’re used to L.A. freeways it’s not so bad.” He thanked Cobblestone’s New Zealand winemaker, Outi Jakovirta; Wim Julicher of Julicher Estate; and Jeff Barber and Nick Hoskins for their vineyard management.

Speaking on behalf of Saul and Anita Levine and his own wife Camilla, Ochlan added: “Thank you so much for accepting a few yanks into this extraordinary winemaking and grape-growing community.”

Voxy NZ reports Bragato Chairman of Judges Olly Masters said the Cobblestone Te Muna Pinot Noir 2009 is a great example of what New Zealand Pinot Noir offers to the world.

“The Cobblestone Te Muna Pinot Noir 2009 achieves the difficult balance between having good structure and being fruit expressive. The great thing about this Pinot Noir is you can drink it now but also know it will cellar well,” Mr. Masters explained.

For Champion Pinot Noir, Cobblestone was presented the Mike Wolter Memorial Trophy, a beautiful one-of-a-kind sculpture crafted from 1,000-year-old Kauri wood indigenous to New Zealand. For Champion Wine of the Show, Cobblestone received the Bragato Trophy. Now with Saul Levine’s name added to their lists of inscriptions, both trophies are entrusted to Cobblestone’s safe keeping until next year’s ceremony. Ochlan has returned to California with the awards, marking the first time either trophy has left the shores of New Zealand and traveled to America.

The 2009 Cobblestone “Te Muna” Pinot Noir is available directly from the winery in both New Zealand and the U.S. Please direct inquiries to 707.259.1110 or [info@cobblestonewine.com](mailto:info@cobblestonewine.com).

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## About Cobblestone Vineyards:

FM radio pioneer Saul Levine and his wife Anita started Cobblestone Vineyards in 1971 with a 30-acre property in what became Monterey's Arroyo Seco AVA.

It's from this first estate (now expanded to 50 acres) that Cobblestone got its name. Planted exclusively to Chardonnay, the vineyard's soil is densely packed with cobblestones (known locally as "Greenfield Potatoes"), which positively affect drainage and temperature.

For decades the Levines remained growers only, producing fruit for premium wineries and award-winning wines. In 1997 they acquired a mountaintop property on Napa Valley's Atlas Peak, which they planted entirely to Bordeaux varietals. Then with winemaker Sam Baxter and general manager P.J. Ochlan, they officially released their own wines under the Cobblestone label – the critically acclaimed 2001 Cobblestone Cabernet Sauvignon and 2003 Cobblestone Chardonnay.

It is Cobblestone's mission to craft limited-production, single-vineyard wines solely from their own family estate vineyards, which are situated in the world's ultimate locations for the varietals they are planted with.

Cobblestone Vineyards is a member of the Atlas Peak Appellation Association, the Monterey County Vintners and Growers Association, Family Winemakers of California, the Wine Institute of New Zealand and New Zealand Grapegrowers.

[www.CobblestoneWine.com](http://www.CobblestoneWine.com)

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