

THURS 8TH DEC

# Lawson's scoops a big one



Peter Morice | Deborah Walton-Derry

**T**he Air New Zealand wine awards dinner on November 12 held some pleasant surprises for local wine companies, none more so than Barbara Lawson of Lawson's Dry Hills.

Barbara and winemaker Marcus Wright travelled to Auckland for the awards wine tasting on Saturday morning and dinner that evening.

"We enjoy tasting the wines and then being part of the celebration at dinner in the evening. It's great for networking," Barbara says.

She had entered Lawson's Dry Hills The Pioneer Gewurztraminer 2010 in the Exhibition Class, because case numbers are limited. This small production means if the wine is a medal winner, the wine company has no idea. Unlike other classes, the organisers do not call for several cases to be made available to serve at the evening event - a request that gives a clue as to the success of an entry in the awards.

The competition always finishes with a fine wine, fine dining gala event where the major award winners are announced. This year it was attended by 600 people in the luxurious surroundings of the Langham Hotel, Auckland.

"We got a tremendous surprise when we learnt we had won gold in the Exhibition Class," Barbara says. "It was such a wonderful surprise."

When I spoke to Barbara after the win she still sounded completely rapt in the outcome.



**Nice surprises:** Barbara Lawson of Lawson's Dry Hills was surprised and delighted to win a gold for Lawson's Dry Hills The Pioneer Gewurztraminer 2010 at the Air New Zealand wine awards.

Photo: SUPPLIED

The judge, Steve Smith MW, wrote a lovely citation, "The most evocative wine I have tasted for some time. Sensationally spicy. Turkish delight and rose petal pot pourri of aromas. Lovely sweet edged palate with ripe, supple and delicious flavours. Princess Kate could take a bath in this and just let the moisture dry, no towelling allowed. It's all about pleasure."

The Air New Zealand wine awards remains the premier wine event on the New Zealand winegrowers' calendar. Organised and owned by New Zealand Winegrowers, it is the country's most prestigious wine competition, and regarded as the official competition of the New Zealand wine industry.

**Lawson's Dry Hills The Pioneer Gewurztraminer 2010 (\$32):** The heady aroma is fabulous - perfumed and ripe - turkish delight and rose petals overlaid by some spicy, rich marmalade notes. The palate is unctuous, heavy bodied and spicy. Tremendous length of palate and lusciousness are derived from the hedonistic blend of ginger and ripe fruitiness - a big wine and a must-buy for those who enjoy a top-rate gewurztraminer.

