



CLOVER HILL IS AWARDED 'TASMANIAN VINEYARD OF THE YEAR'

Confirming Taltarni's status as Australia's leading independent sparkling house

Melbourne, 19th April 2005 – Clover Hill has been awarded the Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania's (RAST) inaugural *Tasmanian Vineyard of the Year*.

The perpetual Richard Langdon Trophy donated by Mrs Caroline Matterson in memory of her late husband is a fine bronze designed by noted Tasmanian sculptor Stephen Walker. The award for *Tasmanian Vineyard of the Year* is an extension of the RAST's policy to promote competition among finished products and create quality benchmarks for Tasmania's premium food and wine products.

The Vineyards Association of Tasmania (VAT) fully supports this award seeing it as valuable means to further encourage quality output. In accord with RAST criteria, *Clover Hill* highlights its dedication in delivering the finest product from the vineyard to the glass, using sustainable management systems.

Taltarni's flagship Tasmanian sparkling wine *Clover Hill* was a vision of French-based John Goelet, who first acquired *Taltarni* in the early 1970s. John developed the *Clover Hill* vineyard in 1986, following a search for the ideal location to make a hallmark Australian sparkling wine. From 1999 John was supported by Michael Mackenzie; co-proprietor of the elite Champagne House of Jacquesson & Fils.

Clover Hill is a small estate in the Pipers River region of north-east Tasmania. This region is increasingly regarded as the 'Epernay of the Southern Hemisphere' with similar growing degree days as the Champagne district of France. Vineyard Manager, Chris Smith says, "*Clover Hill* has considerable variation in aspect, soil and slope adding complexity to the fruit sourced from specific sites within the vineyard."

The *Clover Hill* vineyard was deliberately planted to only three key varieties used for making of traditional sparkling wine; chardonnay, pinot noir and pinot meunier. Since the debut of its 1991 vintage, *Clover Hill* has impressed both the local and international wine scene, with its 1998 and 1999 vintages receiving the highly coveted *Winestate Magazine's Australasian Sparkling Wine of the Year Award*.

Being awarded *Tasmanian Vineyard of the Year* further highlights the commitment *Clover Hill* takes in delivering exceptional fruit to produce the finest sparkling wine.

The Richard Langdon trophy will be presented at *Clover Hill* on Wednesday, 25th May. Judges will outline the judging processes and the reasons for the selection of the winning vineyard, *Clover Hill* and the finalists. The day also includes an inspection of the property and expert advice for wine producers.

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