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Windowrie Estate takes gold and trophy honours at Brisbane Fine Wine Festival

Cowra winemakers continue to win acclaim with Windowrie Estate recently winning a gold medal and Tewksbury Commercial Real Estate Trophy for "*The highest scoring alternative red blend or varietal*" at the 2009 Brisbane Fine Wine Festival for their **2006 Windowrie Estate 'The Mill' Cowra Sangiovese**.

The Brisbane Fine Wine Festival is an annual event that has been running for a number of years. This year the judging was led by Master of Wine and Chairman of Panel, Mr. Andrew Corrigan.

Other judges involved in this well supported show (over 500 entries) included Peter Scudamore-Smith M.W., winemakers Michael Hatcher (Hungerford Hill Wines) and Rebecca Wilson (Bremerton Wines), and wine journalist Tyson Stelzer.

"We're particularly excited about this award," commented Jason O'Dea, General Manager, viticulturist and member of Windowrie's founding family. "The festival attracts an impressive range of very experienced judges, including two Masters of Wine, winemakers and journalists."

"Sangiovese is one of a number of alternative varieties that we are finding work well in the Cowra and Canowindra region. We planted this particular vineyard in 1998, and it's taken a while for us to establish the best cropping and vineyard management in order to grow such good fruit."

"Our clone of Sangiovese has a tendency to over crop and loses its varietal character; so much of our time is spent in the vineyard, ensuring that the winemaker has quality, flavoursome grapes to work with."

"Stylistically, we have avoided the ongoing temptation to blend the Sangiovese with Cabernet or Shiraz to increase body. Our aim with this wine is to make a varietal Sangiovese that is true to the site, so it's a great reward to be recognised with this Trophy," concluded Jason.

Pricing & Distribution: 'The Mill' wines retail for \$17.99 and are distributed throughout Australia.

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Further information on Windowrie Estate can be found at www.windowrie.com.au

WINDOWRIE ESTATE is one of the Cowra region's founding winemakers. Established by the O'Dea family in 1988, the business experienced considerable success, allowing them to build a 6000 tonne winery in 1999. The Windowrie range now comprises the 'Family Reserve', 'The Mill' and 'Deep River' range. A feature of Windowrie is The Mill cellar door and function centre located in the heart of Cowra. The old, rundown 1859 flour mill was painstakingly restored by the family in the 1990s and is now a key attribute of the town.