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All your Australasia Wine Cellar Dreams... Auckland, NEW ZEALAND (November 2010)

Cotter House has had the pleasure of hosting the 2010 Winestate Australasian Top Wine Awards for the second year in a row. Cotter House owner, Gloria Poupard- Walbridge's enthusiasm for these awards has encouraged her to fill the Cotter House cellar with a substantial collection of the top wines nominated in 2010.

It will be Gloria's pleasure to showcase this collection of outstanding wines to New Zealand visitors and to the world. Cotter House has enabled her to develop her interest for good wine into an unrivalled passion "I love matching extraordinary wines to authentic New Zealand cuisine. Come and enjoy the best wines New Zealand has to offer" enthuses Gloria.

The Winestate Awards take place once a year and are organised by Peter Simic, of Winestate Publishing, Australasia's specialist Wine magazine. Mr. Simic has described the awards as the 'Bledisloe Cup of Australasian winemaking'.

New Zealand wineries won a record six out of 12 categories in blind tasting tests. New Zealand took out the major trophies for the best sparkling (Margrain), Pinot Gris (Greystone), Sauvignon Blanc (Vavasour), Pinot Noir (Craggy Range), Merlot (Kim Crawford) and, for the first time, the best sweet white (Pokolbin Estate).

While it was a great result for the New Zealand wine industry, it was a triumph for Saint Clair Family Estate, one of Marlborough's largest family-owned producers. Saint Clair took away awards for both Wine Company of the Year and Winemaker of the Year for the second time in three years. Other winners include boutique wines from Pokolbin Estate and Brancott Valley.

A rare example of Regency style, Cotter House dates back to 1847, and today the mansion springs to life with renewed splendour, combining exquisite antiques with an extensive cellar with an emphasis on breadth and depth and exceptional vintages. Classic French décor reflects the continental flair of Gloria's Colombian-born, French-raised heritage.

The four guest rooms and suites are individually decorated in enviable Cotter House style, blending contemporary art with luscious fabrics and antiques collected from travels around the globe. Highlights for many guest's stay at the property are Gloria's guided tours to local artists and antique dealers or luxury day trips to Waiheke Islands world-famed vineyards armed with Cotter's own wine guide.

Domestic and international marketing of Cotter House is managed by Navigate Oceania. For more information or for graphics, contact Karine Thomas on +64 9 307 3633, or email karine@navigateoceania.com or visit www.cotterhouse.com

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Editors Notes:

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