

## **PRESS RELEASE**

# Misha's Vineyard Appoints Oliver Masters as Consulting Winemaker

**CROMWELL, Central Otago, New Zealand, 16 April, 2007**– Misha's Vineyard has appointed internationally renowned winemaker Oliver Masters (Olly) as Consulting Winemaker. Olly will be overseeing Misha's Vineyard trial vintage this April in preparation for the first commercial vintage in 2008.

Forging some of New Zealand's most consistently fine Pinot Noir over the past decade, Olly has carved a reputation as one of New Zealand's leading winemakers and wine judges. Olly's credentials include an honours degree in Biotechnology from Massey University (1989) and a Post Graduate Diploma in Viticulture and Oenology (Distinction) from Lincoln University (1990). He serves as a senior wine judge at New Zealand's major national competitions, including the New Zealand International Wine Show, Royal Easter Show Wine Awards, and six years with the Air New Zealand Wine Awards. He is also a regular wine panellist for Cuisine Magazine.

Starting his career in Martinborough in 1989, Olly has also worked in Hawkes Bay and Burgundy prior to joining Ata Rangi in 1994 as winemaker/viticulturalist then later becoming a partner. During his time there, Ata Rangi's achievements included winning the Champion Pinot Noir at the prestigious International Wine and Spirit Competition in London on three occasions as well as numerous accolades and trophies in Australasia. Olly will continue his involvement with Ata Rangi as consulting oenologist.

"We are very excited that Olly will be making his Central Otago debut with our vineyard where he will have an ongoing role in setting the direction for style and taste" said Misha Wilkinson, Director of Misha's Vineyard. "With Olly joining our team, which includes Robin Dicey, arguably one of New Zealand's most recognised viticulturalists, we have the best possible combination to be able to realise the flavours from our vineyard".



## PRESS RELEASE

Central Otago's reputation for producing world-class Pinot Noir moved forward another notch at Pinot Noir 2007 held in Wellington earlier this year when wines of the region were showcased alongside those from the longer-established Pinot Noir regions of the world.

"Having tasted many of the wines from this region, the opportunity to make Central Otago wines and to be part of a vineyard operation that has all the right elements to be a truly great wine producer, was something I couldn't really pass up" said Olly Masters.

#### For further information please contact:

#### Misha Wilkinson - Misha's Vineyard Wines Limited

Tel: +64 (0)210 2200812 (NZ mobile) or by email: misha@mishasvineyard.com

Photos available in high resolution JPG format on request by email

### **About Misha's Vineyard Wines Limited**

Established in 2004 by Andy and Misha Wilkinson, Misha's Vineyard is situated on 57 hectares of Bendigo Station's most visually spectacular sites located on the north-west facing terraces overlooking Lake Dunstan. With10 hectares planted in 2004, and a further 12 hectares in 2005, Misha's Vineyard plans further planting as well as the construction of an underground wine cellar and winery. Currently two-thirds of the vineyard is planted in Pinot Noir, with the remainder comprising a selection of white varieties including Pinot Gris, Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc and Gewürztraminer. The primary markets for Misha's Vineyard Wines will be Asia and the US with the full range of wines scheduled for launch in 2009.