

DE BORTOLI

YARRA VALLEY ESTATE

RESTAURANT • CELLAR DOOR • CHEESE SHOP • WINERY

2nd October 2009

GOURMET TRAVELLER WINE YOUNG WINE MAKER OF THE YEAR 2009 SARAH FAGAN – DE BORTOLI YARRA VALLEY

Sarah Fagan of De Bortoli Yarra Valley was named 'Young Winemaker of the Year' at the Gourmet Traveller Wine Magazine Awards held at the Park Hyatt in Melbourne on 1 October 2009.

A strong focus on quality has drawn industry acclaim for Sarah, in particular, for premium Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

Sarah 28, who was brought up on a large farming property in Cowra, is currently gaining more international experience by working the 2009 Vintage in the Rheingau in Germany, at Weingut Josef Leitz. She says in her usual laid back style that she is "absolutely chuffed" to have been bestowed this honour.

Says Leanne De Bortoli: "This is a tremendous acknowledgement of her abilities as a winemaker and we are all very proud of her".

With winemaking and viticultural interests in the family, Sarah set off to Charles Sturt University to study wine science, which she completed in 2003. During her final year, she worked her first vintage at Poet's Corner in Mudgee, before moving to the Yarra Valley to De Bortoli, where she now dotes after all things Pinot Noir and Chardonnay under Steve Webber.

Steve is very complimentary about Sarah. 'In the last 18 months she's blossomed as a winemaker and has shown real flair for Pinot Noir, Sauvignon and Chardonnay. Her Pinot Noirs' have an extra degree of perfume and beauty – perhaps a feminine touch if you like. She's bloody minded on detail and uncompromising on quality'.

For further information please phone Suzanne Ronsmans 03 97614100

