



Picture: LIN FERGUSON

The start of a new wine dynasty with the marriage of Australian winemakers Sarah Kate Wilson, formerly of Wanaka, and Dan Dineen, of Sydney, at the Rippon Vineyard in Wanaka.

# New wine dynasty starts as top winemakers wed

By LIN FERGUSON

WANAKA — A new winemaking dynasty was created on Saturday with the marriage of Australian winemakers Sarah Kate Wilson, formerly of Wanaka, and Dan Dineen, of Sydney, at a society wedding in Wanaka.

The couple are seen to be two of the most dedicated and talented young winemakers in the world, according to top Australian winemakers.

Sarah Kate, 29, who grew up near Winton, heads the high-quality wine division of the new McGuigan winery Tempus Two, while Dan, 35, is 200m up the road leading the fine-wine division of Tower Estate.

Australian winemaker supreme Brian McGuigan, of the McGuigan group of wineries in the Hunter Valley, said the couple were both magnificent world-class winemakers.

"I wouldn't have missed their wedding. I care a great deal about these two. They are extremely talented young winemakers destined to go far. We are seeing the start of new worldwide winemaking dynasty here today."

Guru of the Australian wine industry, columnist and critic Len Evans,

who is also chairman of Tower Estate winery, forecast a glittering future for the pair.

"They are dedicated, fine winemakers of the highest calibre ... you see they are passionate people, passionate about producing the very best wine. They will go far in this industry."

Wanaka was in sparkling form for the 150 exclusive guests as they sipped NV Morton Estate bubbles, chatted and marvelled over the the glory of the scenery from the hilltop site at the Rippon Vineyard.

Among the splash of millionaire guests were several winemaking stars from the Hunter Valley, in New South Wales. They included Iain and Merralea Scarborough, of Scarborough Wines, Lisa and Andrew Margan, of Margan Family Wines, Greg Jarret, of Coldstream, Ian Riggs, of Brokenwood and New Zealand top winemakers Natalie and Chris Archer, of Morton Estate.

The marriage took place in a traditional ceremony at St Columba's Church, in Wanaka.

The bride and her three bridesmaids were elegant and understated in

gowns with a subtle New Zealand paua theme.

The bride's dress, mermaid-inspired by Sydney designer Diane Lewis, had an A-line, white silk chiffon skirt and sculpted strapless bodice in oval translucent discs of pink, mauve and green.

The bridesmaids wore Lisa Ho silvery-grey silk chiffon strapless sheaths, with pieces of paua shell woven into their hair.

An abundance of New Zealand food and wines featured on the menu, including smoked Lake Wanaka trout, leg of Central Otago lamb stuffed with wild thyme, olives, lemon zest and almonds with baby potatoes, kumara, slow-roasted red peppers stuffed with baby tomatoes, capers and fresh basil leaves.

Two wines from the local Mt Maude Vineyard owned by the bride's parents, Terry and Dawn Wilson, formerly of Centre Bush, were served — a 2001 pinot noir and a 2001 chardonnay.

But the ultimate tasting was saved for last — a 1999 Tempus Two Vine Vale Shiraz for her and a 2000 Tower Estate Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon for him.