

QUARTZ REEF

CENTRAL OTAGO

1. Contact Details			
Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.			
Organisation name (if relevant)	Bendigo Estate Partnership (NZ) Limited t/a Quartz Reef Wines		
First name	Rudi		
Last name	Bauer		
Postal address	[REDACTED]		
Home phone / Mobile phone	[REDACTED]	Work phone	03 445 3084
Email (a valid email address enables us to communicate efficiently with you)	[REDACTED]		

2. We will email you draft conditions of consent for your comment			
x	I can receive emails and my email address is correct	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I cannot receive emails and my postal address is correct

To the Members of the Expert Consenting Panel,

This is a letter to support the expert submission from Central Otago Winegrowers Association – COWA.

My name is Rudi Bauer, general manager/winemaker of Quartz Reef Wines, which I founded in 1996. I arrived in New Zealand in 1985 as a classical trained viticulturalist and winemaker from Austria at the beginning of the modern wine history of New Zealand wine, with the first international recognition of Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc.

I was appointed viticulturist and winemaker at Rippon Vineyard on Lake Wānaka in June 1989 during the early days of Central Otago's evolution as a viticultural region and at the point at which its potential to grow premium wines was becoming apparent. At this stage, Central Otago's viticultural area was 30ha; today there are 2100ha planted under vines. From the six wineries then, there are now 90 wineries and counting.

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During this time, I have played a key role in both Central Otago's and New Zealand's success story. Regional and national appointments and accolades include:

- 1999 & 2010 NZ Winemaker of the year
- 2000 & 2002 Chair Central Otago Pinot Noir Celebration
- 2009 – 2024 Chair of Central Otago Pinot Noir Ltd
- 2019 Gourmet Traveller Wine New Zealand "Leadership Award"
- 2021 Fellow and Life Member of New Zealand Winegrowers
- 2020 – 2022 Central Otago Tourism advisory board
- 2025 NZ Herald VIVA top 50 wineries of 2025 Lifetime achievement award

Quartz Reef Wines was established in 1996 with John & Heather Perriam of Bendigo Station and Clotilde Chauvet from Champagne. Two crucial parts came together: from my point the outstanding viticultural potential of Bendigo was readily apparent and from John and Heathers' point of view, my interest provided them with the opportunity to turn unproductive farmland into viable land use. The first vines were planted in 1998 making it the pioneer vineyard of Bendigo, which has gained a global reputation for its distinctive, premium wines. Today, Quartz Reef cultivates 25ha of certified organic and biodynamic vines from which we produce premium Pinot Noir and sparkling wine that is distributed around the globe. A leader in biodynamic viticulture in New Zealand, we have held Demeter (biodynamic) certification and 2007 and have been Biogro (organic) certified since 2017.

It is indisputable that the Bendigo wine growing region has contributed significantly to Central Otago's international reputation as a premium wine region. One need look only to wine competitions around the world to see Bendigo's wines winning medals and awards alongside producers whose wines have long been considered some of the world's finest. Closer to home, you will see the wines of Bendigo feature prominently on the wine lists of the country's best restaurants; restaurants whose wine lists themselves have won international acclaim. Come closer to home still, and the filled Cellar Doors of wine tourists and visitors from the international wine trade are further testament to the reputation of Bendigo and its wines.

Central Otago, in viticultural and winemaking terms, is extremely young compared to more established wine regions in Europe that boast hundreds of years history. What Central Otago has achieved within its first 40 years as a winegrowing region is clearly outstanding. Nonetheless, we are just at the start of our journey to establish Central Otago as irrefutably one of the very finest wine regions in the World. If, and only if, it is allowed to continue its current trajectory, I have no doubt it will do so.

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Further, the potential for extraordinary things to be achieved in the soils of Bendigo as our vines mature and as more and more vineyards commit to organic methods (noting that Central Otago already has the highest percentage of organic vineyards in New Zealand) is there and it is real but we need to protect all of the work that has gone in thus far – work that has improved what was otherwise barren and inorganic land. Land and soils that are now healthy and thriving.

The prospect of a potential gold mine in Bendigo has not only a massive influence on Quartz Reef but also upon all the Bendigo winegrowers, Central Otago winegrowers and New Zealand's reputation of high-end premium wines.

There is a tremendous amount at stake and the moment there is a spade in the ground it will be too late. I ask you please to consider the massive ramifications and irreversible impact that the Bendigo-Ophir Goldmine project long-term will have on the work, livelihood and reputation of Bendigo's and Central Otago's winegrowers.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rudi Bauer', is written over a horizontal line.

Rudi Bauer

Managing Director/Winemaker

9th April 2026