



# Rewards of the harvest

By Kylie Kitchen

Three Macedon Ranges producers were awarded for the quality and presentation of their exhibits at the 2011 Harvest Picnic at Hanging Rock on Sunday.

Barfold Olive Oil was given a silver above all other olive oil exhibitors.

"Every one, every judge loved their olive oil, and there was quite a few olive oil producers participating," judge and food writer, Gail Thomas said.

Mount Macedon Kitchen was awarded a bronze, and Ms Thomas commended the business on their product knowledge.

"It was their presentation, and they had a nice range of preserves, their pies and their biscuit and brownies were wonderful," she said.

"It's the people behind the stalls like this one that make the picnic what it is; they show their enthusiasm and know their product.

"It's really good when you get the opportunity to speak with the producer, everyone wants that product knowledge."

Hanging Rock Winery was again awarded 'Best Winery'.

"I think they win nearly every year, they have a good display, the people behind the stall know

their stuff and they're positive and enthusiastic," Ms Thomas said.

The gold and 'Best New Exhibitor' awards went to Otway Forest Shiitake.

The awards are decided by a panel of six judges, who award points for the presentation and originality of the displays.

Joining Ms Thomas on the panel were Jo Richardson (Season to Taste), Rita Erlich (food writer), Laurie Cavallo (Woolworths), Carol Coughlan (David Jones) and Michelle Potts (food writer and Harvest Picnic Foundation board member).

Harvest Picnic Foundation executive officer, Kirsty Hunt said the event was a success and attracted 8000 visitors.

"It just had a really great feel to it, the picnic has a great atmosphere. I thought it was wonderful this year," she said.

Ms Hunt said the event provides an opportunity for food producers to get consumer feedback and develop from that, as well as to get brand recognition and promote their produce.

The day included cooking demonstrations from Stefano de Pieri, Travis McAuley, Jake Nicolson, Samantha Bakker and Lyn Harwood.



Mount Macedon Kitchen staff, Anastasia Clunies-Ross and Karissa Wills exhibiting at the Harvest Picnic on Sunday  
Picture: Chris Fleming.