

22 February 2011



GAME ON: WineArt manager Gisela Purcell, with Nelson mayor Aldo Miccio and winemaker Anna Seifried, gearing up for a competition between Italian, US and Nelson wines during the Rugby World Cup. *Photo: Andrew Board.*

Competition heads off the pitch, into the vineyard

While Italy and the United States battle for supremacy on the rugby field, its wines will go head-to-head off it, as part of a new event added to the Game On festival. The First Fifteen Wine Competition will pit the top aromatic wines from Italy and the United States against those from Nelson, with guest judges jetting in from the visiting nations.

Nelson WineArt manager Gisela Purcell says the event is a fantastic opportunity to see just how Nelson wines compare to top wines from renowned wine-growing countries.

The competition is the latest event to be added to the Game On festival, a Nelson City Council event that will see a number of events happening around the region, while the Rugby World Cup is played.

Main attractions already on the festival calendar include a re-enactment of the first game of rugby played in New Zealand, between Nelson College and Nelson Rugby Club, Fanzones to watch the latter part of the tournament in the city centre and the Nelson Arts Festival.

While wine judging is the most prestigious part of the competition it won't be just the judges that get to taste the wine. A degustation dinner, tutored tasting of winning wines and a new release of Nelson wines will give Nelsonians, as well as tourists, an opportunity to taste the region's top drops.