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Pomona orchard stuns all comers with lychee liqueur

IF THE idea of a snifter of lychee liqueur gets your senses glowing, you're clearly in good company.

You won't have to look far to get the nation's absolute best of it either – because it's grown and bottled right here on the Sunshine Coast.

Pomona's Tomarata Orchard has taken out the only gold medal in the recent Australian Fruit Wine Competition in Cairns, with its Sensual Lychee Liqueur 2010, beating all comers in the company's first outing at the event.

Tomarata followed up that best-in-show effort with a bronze medal for its Sensual Peach Liqueur 2007 and further success with its Sensual Sundowner Liqueur (nectarine and honey) 2008.

"The judges said our gold medal winner was a standout, with true fruit characters, good balance and length," Tomarata owner Kerry Pool said.

She and husband John start-



ADDING VALUE: Kerry and John Pool with some of the lychee produce they make at their Tomarata Orchards in Pomona.

PHOTO: GEOFF POTTER

ed out in the industry 13 years ago and Tomarata Orchard was set up in 2005 with the liqueur starting two years later.

"Our first lychee vintage was bottled in 2010; we had 900 bottles, 700 of which were sold in the first few weeks," Kerry said.

"It's a beautiful product."

They also took out first, se-

cond and third places in the fruit wine section at last year's Ekka.

Council's Economic Development and Entrepreneurship portfolio councillor, Lew Brennan, said the company was a perfect representative of the type of modern rural industry that could thrive in the Coast hinterland.