A new and distinct apple tree variety is described. The variety results from selection among a population of seedlings derived from crossing the apple varieties known as 'Royal Gala' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 4,121) and 'Braeburn' (not patented). The fruit of the apple tree of this new variety has an attractive appearance characterised by its red colour and obvious lenticels and is notable for its excellent eating quality. The new variety has been named 'Scilate'.

7 Drawing Sheets
the 2004-2005 season on trees on MM. 106 rootstock that were four years old at the time, and managed under standard orchard practice.

Tree: Ramified with spreading habit; bearing on spurs and shoots; medium vigour; Average tree height 3.0 m and canopy diameter of 2.5 m measured at 1.0 m above the ground.

Trunk: Moderately rough; average diameter 47 mm at a height of 200 mm from the graft union; bark is grey-green R.H.S.C.C. 197B.

Branches: Angle of branching from the trunk is fairly flat, typically between 0° to 30° above the horizontal; moderate branching; moderately rough; pubescence absent; average number of 6 spurs per cm²; colour grey-green R.H.S.C.C. 197B.

One year old shoot: Thickness 5mm; length 351 mm; internode length 29 mm; brown R.H.S.C.C. 166A.

Lenticels: Oval shape, size 1.0×0.5 mm; approximately 8 per cm²; colour grey-white R.H.S.C.C. 156C.

Leaves: Length 89 mm; width 48 mm; outward attitude in relation to shoot; unfolded in cross section; crenate indentations; medium glossiness on upper surface; weak pubescence on lower surface; colour of mature leaf blade is green, upper surface R.H.S.C.C. 147A, lower surface R.H.S.C.C. 148B; colour of veins is green, upper surface R.H.S.C.C. 148B, lower surface R.H.S.C.C. 148D changing to red R.H.S.C.C. 182A from about mid way along the leaf towards the petiolar; colour of immature leaf blade is green, upper surface R.H.S.C.C. 137B, lower surface R.H.S.C.C. 146B; elongate stipules, length 10 mm long, width 2 mm, petiole length 30 mm, thickness 2 mm; bud break is in early September in New Zealand.

Flower buds: Balloon stage length 16 mm, width 13 mm, colour pink R.H.S.C.C. N57D; initial bud colour is pink R.H.S.C.C. 63B.

Flowers: Medium blooming period, starting about 5 October for 2 weeks (Hawkes Bay, New Zealand); five petals, margins overlapping; colour pink R.H.S.C.C. 55B fading to white; flower diameter 45 mm; petal length 22 mm; petal width 16 mm; five pointed sepals, length 7 mm, width 3 mm, colour green R.H.S.C.C. 144D with red-orange tips R.H.S.C.C. 144A; many stamens with white filaments R.H.S.C.C. 155B, length 2.5-5 mm long and yellow anthers R.H.S.C.C. 11C, size 1.5×0.5 mm; pollen colour yellow R.H.S.C.C. 4A; pistil—stigma length 8-9 mm, colour green R.H.S.C.C. 145B; five styles fused at base; fragrance mild.

Fruit: Harvest period is from about 19 April and continues for around three weeks in Hawkes Bay, New Zealand.

Size: Medium; average width 81 mm; average height 69 mm; average weight 227 g.

Shape: Globose conical; symmetrical; ribbing weak; medium crowning at calyx end.

Stem cavity: Average depth 17 mm; average width 37 mm.

Eye basin: Average depth 13 mm; average width 30 mm; average diameter of eye 10 mm; aperture of eye partly open; sinus open.

Stem: Average length 22 mm; average thickness 2 mm.

Sepals: Average length 5 mm; touching; pointed, colour green R.H.S.C.C. 147C.

Skin: Medium thickness; smooth; bloom absent; greasiness absent at harvest; background colour yellow R.H.S.C.C. 11A; size of lenticels medium; small amounts of russet may be present on the cheek, in the stem basin and eye cavity and on the lenticels; overcolour covers about 70% of skin surface; red stripes R.H.S.C.C. 46A over a solid red flush R.H.S.C.C. 42B.

 Flesh: Firmness of 10.8 kgf at harvest, crisp and juicy; cream coloured R.H.S.C.C. 13D; texture medium; sweet flavour with a hint of acidity, soluble solids 14%.

Locules: Five locules containing 1-2 seeds; aperture partly open; average length 17 mm; average width 10 mm.

Seeds: Average number per fruit 7; average length 10 mm; average width 5.2 mm; average thickness 3 mm; colour brown R.H.S.C.C. 165A.

Use: Dessert.

Keeping quality: Stores well in air cool storage (0±0.5°C.) for at least 3 months. Post storage firmness 10.1 kgf, soluble solids 16.5%. Fruit remains in a good condition for at least 14 days at 20°C.

Production: Late season; regular cropping; good fruit size and yield.

Disease susceptibility: no known resistances to pests and diseases.

Management: Prune in winter to open up the canopy to light; thin the crop in late spring. It is advisable to support young trees with posts and wires to prevent breakages. As this variety is prone to russet, spray applications should be applied in conditions which do not induce russet.

The specific pollination requirements have not been determined for the new variety. However, observations indicate that apple tree productivity is increased where cross-pollination readily occurs.

The ploidy of the candidate variety is not readily available. However, it is likely to be diploid consistent with the parent varieties. No indication of the variety being self-fertile, or partially self-fertile, has been observed and fertilization of cross-pollination is recommended to ensure a high level of productivity. The flowering period for the new variety is consistent with a number of mainstream varieties. Other varieties flowering in this period that could be considered as useful for cross-pollination of the new variety could include ‘Royal Gala’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 4,121), ‘Red Delicious’ (not patented), and ‘Granny Smith’ (not patented).

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct variety of apple tree substantially as herein described and illustrated.

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