



**Fig. S9. a**, Bar plot showing the direction and statistical significance ( $P$ -values were based on the Spearman correlation test) of the associations between stromal/intratumoral tumour-infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) and the expression of *LAG3* and *HAVCR2* in the NPC Cohort A. **b**, Upper, representative multiplex immunofluorescence images for EPCAM, LAG-3, HAVCR2 and CD8 in an NPC tumour sample. The area within the dash line indicates the tumour stroma; the other area with aggregates of EPCAM<sup>+</sup> cells indicates the tumour epithelial nests. Lower, quantitation of LAG-3<sup>+</sup> and HAVCR2<sup>+</sup> CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells as a percentage of the total CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells within and outside of the area of tumour epithelial nests ( $n = 6$ ). mean  $\pm$  s.e.m. Scale bar: 50  $\mu$ m. \*  $P < 0.05$  (paired Student's  $t$ -test). **c**, Kaplan–Meier curves showing progression-free survival of the 88 patients in the NPC Cohort A stratified according to high versus low expression of *LAG3* and *HAVCR2*. Cox regression HRs and 95% CIs obtained after correcting for age, sex, smoking history and disease stage are shown; the corresponding Cox regression  $P$ -values are also shown.