

Chardonnay 2008

Martinborough Vineyard
Handcrafted Excellence in Wine

TASTING NOTES: Our Martinborough Vineyard Chardonnay is a classic wine full of ripe stonefruit aromas with biscuit and mineral notes intertwining on the nose. Careful use of oak has created a wine that is finely grained and focussed yet shows power and depth of flavour. Our winemaking style focuses on producing a well balanced Chardonnay that is rich and full bodied whilst remaining balanced and elegant. This wine is drinking well in its youth but will reward those that have the patience to cellar it.

VINEYARD: Chardonnay vines are some of our oldest plantings on the Martinborough Terrace. We have five clones of Chardonnay planted that provide the majority of this blend. These blocks consistently give us full ripe concentrated fruit that makes a Chardonnay that is both rich and complex yet retains balance and elegance

The region has a cool, maritime climate along with other beneficial climatic drivers including a rain shadow, one of the country's largest diurnal temperature differentials, windy springs and a long warm ripening period through autumn. All this results in a natural low-vigour site regulating crops and enabling high quality, consistent, ripe fruit.

VINIFICATION: The fruit is carefully sorted in the vineyard during hand harvesting and then whole-bunch pressed. The juice is pressed and left to settle for only a couple of hours before being fermented entirely in French oak barriques. Only indigenous yeasts are used in the fermentation process. The oak is carefully chosen for elegance to complement the fine structure of the wine. Aged in barrels on lees for 12 months, the wine underwent 95% malolactic fermentation and regular lees stirring before bottling.

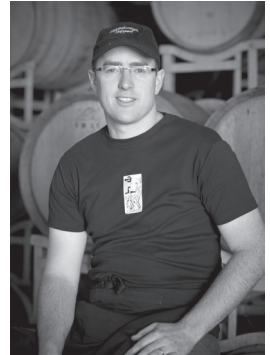
THE SEASON: The famed Martinborough climate of long dry, warm summers is perfect for grape growing and 2008 was no exception. Excellent winter soil moisture levels combined with a very settled spring gave us some of the best flowering conditions we have ever seen. This resulted in an even fruit set and average crop yields across all varieties. Glorious summer weather followed on into the New Year with temperatures in the early thirties and minimal rainfall. This dream season meant all our vineyards were again in great condition allowing us to pick at optimum ripeness.

If only Mother Nature was this kind all the time.





| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| REGION: | Martinborough |
| OAK MATURATION: | All French -30% New, 15% 1 year, 45% 2+ year |
| VINEYARD BLOCKS: | Duncan's Paddock, Pond Paddock and Croft |
| CLONES: | 15, 2/23, Mendoza, 6, Rua and 95 |
| HARVEST DATES: | 5th April through to 19th April 2008 |
| HARVEST ANALYSIS: | Brix = 22.8 – 23.7 pH = 3.26 – 3.48 TA = 7.20 – 8.30 |
| BOTTLING DATE: | 24th August 2009 |
| WINE ANALYSIS: | Alc = 13.9 % pH = 3.36 TA = 6.5 |



Paul Mason – Winemaker

Martinborough Vineyard was established in 1980 by a small partnership with the objective of producing world class cool climate wines from classical grape varieties. We are located on the Martinborough Terrace Appellation in the south east of New Zealand's North Island. Our flagship wine is Pinot Noir with the portfolio also including Chardonnay, Pinot Gris, Sauvignon Blanc and Riesling.

The appellation has free-draining soils and experiences cool climate conditions with long summers and low rainfall, comparable with Burgundy. Vines aged up to 26 years, a diversity of clones, and emphasis on balance in the vineyard all contribute to the complexity and structure of our wines. Our philosophy is "Handcrafted Excellence in Wine", and over the years we are proud to have stayed small, consistent and quality driven.

We actively promote sustainability, using organic means where possible, to limit impact on our environment and also for the future of our industry in New Zealand. The winery and vineyard's environmental management systems are ISO 14001 accredited. Our journey has seen us produce outstanding wines, become a pioneer of Pinot Noir in New Zealand and one of the most prestigious winemakers in the New World.



Some of our trophies include:

- Best Pinot Noir – NZ, Australia, Singapore
- Best Pinot Noir worldwide – UK
- Best red wine in the sky in the world – US
- Best wine of the show – NZ, Australia, Singapore