

Braided River

Marlborough Pinot Noir 2008

The principal vineyard for Braided River sits on the confluence of the mighty Wairau and Waihopai Rivers in Marlborough, New Zealand.

Winemaking

Early in this vintage's development, the vines pushed through a cooler December to form the year's buds, finishing this crucial stage with a bunch count down about 20% over the previous year. Nature takes away but relented later giving back with a near perfect flowering under crisp, bright skies. Carrying lower bunch numbers the vines energies were focussed on building intensity into a smaller number of berries.

Fruit sourced from our dramatic Awatere Valley vineyards were the basis of this year's wine, with complimentary parcels sourced from The Confluence and Lannark Lane vineyards in Marlborough's Wairau Valley. This access to fruit in both of Marlborough's sub-regions allows us to select contrasting parcels of fruit that best express the clarity and flavours we are searching for.

Gathered in the crisp of the morning the individual parcels were completely destemmed directly into a combination of open top and closed fermenters. A cold-soak over a week, extracted colour and the delicate aromatic compounds while cap-plunging endowed the juice with tannin and structure. Post fermentation one half of the new wine was tank aged cool on very fine lees. More common for white wine, this practice enhances the aromatic profile and mouthfeel. The remaining parcel was raised in French oak barriques for an eight month sojourn.

Winemaker's Comments

Anchored in a fine acid balance this Pinot is effusively appealing with a lift of fresh summer raspberries and an appetising flaked chocolate note. Sitting in the background the soft, restrained tannins frame a supple mid palate making for a forward style characterised by a clearly varietal personality.

Vintage Information

Oak Treatment	45% aged in French oak barriques for 8 months. 35% new oak
Alc/Vol	13.0%
Titrateable Acid	5.5g/l
pH	3.48
Cellaring	Now - 2011



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