

The CROSSINGS

Sauvignon Blanc | 2009

A W A T E R E V A L L E Y M A R L B O R O U G H

Recognised as a distinct sub-region of Marlborough, the Awatere Valley's low vigour soils and dry climate produce grapes with intense fruit flavours, infused with a delightful minerality. The Crossings is one of a small group of pioneering Awatere Valley winemakers.

We take our name from the location of the ford used by early settlers to cross the fast flowing Awatere River. The river forms a pristine southern boundary to our three vineyards, Medway, Willow Flat and Brackenfield Estate. These vineyards, while individual in character, share qualities that make for some of Marlborough's most expressive and intense Sauvignon Blanc.

The 2009 season allowed our vines to produce some of the best fruit we've harvested to date. A frost free spring and clear weather during flowering gave us a healthy berry count per bunch. We enjoyed fine, dry weather during the lead up to harvest and our winemakers tasted the berries daily until they felt the flavours and acid definition were just right. The individual vineyard batches were then fermented at the cooler end of the yeast's temperature tolerance. Along with flavour preservation the yeasts when mildly stressed produce additional flavour dimension and mouth-feel. Post fermentation the new wine rested for eight to twelve weeks on fine yeast lees prior to fining and preparation of the final blend for bottling.

TASTING NOTES:

- Colour: Vibrant with a crisp and subtle green hue.
- Bouquet: Dried herb and gunflint compliment gooseberry, passionfruit and pungent grassy aromas.
- Palate: Lime zest and white floral notes are framed by a structured yet supple mid palate. Mouth-watering acidity with the Awatere's signature mineral background complete the persistent finish.
- Food Matching: Panfried calamari with coriander served with sourdough bread.

VINTAGE INFORMATION:

- Winemaker: Matthew Mitchell
- Viticulturist: John van der Linden
- Alc/Vol: 13.0%
- pH: 3.18
- Residual Sugar: 4.5g/l
- Cellaring: Now - 2012

AWARDS:

- Winner Blue-Gold Award Sydney International Wine Competition 2010
- Gold Medal London International Wine Challenge 2010

www.thecrossings.co.nz

