

Established 1968

MATAWHERO MAGIC

OUR NEWSLETTER IS NAMED AFTER THE ROSE BRED BY SAM MCGREDY; DEDICATED TO MATAWHERO'S FOUNDER, THE LATE BILL IRWIN.

The leaves in the vineyard have fallen to the ground signifying the end of another season at Matawhero.

As we look at our parcels of wine in winery from this vintage it is hard not to get very (very!) excited about their potential. This season was stress free with a lovely long hot Summer. We had the luxury of being able to harvest when we have wanted to, which of course is not always the case when you are at the hands of mother nature!

It was very exciting at the end of May to be awarded a GOLD MEDAL at the Gisborne Regional Wine Awards for our Matawhero 2012 Church House Grüner Veltliner. This grape varietal, originally from Austria, seems to suit the Gisborne climate and we look forward to this year's Grüner which looks even better. While our Church House range of wines form the cornerstone of our pioneering spirit and allows us to have a little fun in winery, it is important we remain true to our core wines. Our famous Chardonnay with an inherent creaminess that is bringing people back to the varietal; a Pinot Gris made from a new French Clone which is getting better with every crop; a smooth merlot and of course our famous Gewürztraminer which we didn't make last season as we weren't happy with the quality. All of these wines are core Gisborne varietals that suit the terroir and climate of our wonderful region. We hope you enjoy reading a little more about the 2013 vintage over the page.

It was lovely to spend a warm Autumn afternoon with Matawhero founder Denis Irwin a few weeks ago and enjoy a coffee and a few stories or two about the Matawhero of old and new and how the whole winery really came about. He is one interesting character and if you have a chance, please browse our website timeline and see some of the old stories and images. It is well worth the journey!

All the best for the coming Winter months and we look forward to bringing you some more fantastic wine once they are released in Spring.

Salute

Kirsten & Richard

Kirsten & Richard



Great wines for winter

All of these wines will be perfect to enjoy over those cooler months especially in front of a warm cosy fire!

2012 PINOT NOIR

While the Gisborne region is not recognised for Pinot Noir, we can produce a wonderful style with its own regional differences. Bursting with fruit flavours, this wine has aromas of cherry, spice and nutty oak. The palate is full of cherries, cassis and oak and is the perfect accompaniment to lamb, salmon or a good NZ BBQ.

2011 BARREL FERMENTED CHARDONNAY

A little more complex in style than our white label un-oaked Chardonnay. This wine is made from a new French clone which suits some barrel influence and produces a wonderful balanced full-bodied wine. With aromas of ripe melon, fig and a hint of oak, the palate is rich, big and full, with great length. Perfect with creamy pasta, risotto, cheese and white meats.

2012 MERLOT

The perfect Merlot for those impending cooler months, this wine is crimson in colour with a brooding complex nose of wild berry, blackcurrant, toasty oak and leather. The palate is full of sweet fruit and a lingering, dry finish. Enjoy with meat dishes, a cheese platter or Winter casseroles.

Matawhero



Celebrate the return of an old favourite

STORIES FROM THE PAST

The Riverpoint Appellation

The home of Matawhero wines is the vineyard and winery at the end of Riverpoint Road in Gisborne. The same place since 1968 when Bill Irwin started tinkering with grape vines.



The Waipaoa River is a prominent feature, snaking its way through the Gisborne landscape, then washes into the bay. Up until its diversion, it encircled a small number of properties on the road. The locals descriptively called that area "Riverpoint".

The Waipaoa catchment was prone to regular flooding, especially at Riverpoint, where it was forced to turn 180 degrees over a very small distance. This flooding would wash across Riverpoint Road depositing lovely free draining loam soils. It is these soils (or terroir) which have been a large component of the unparalleled wines from Matawhero.

To alleviate the effects of regular flooding, the river was diverted to take a more direct route to the sea in 1954. The old river bed now forms a DOC wetland surrounding the property which is home to many native bird species of New Zealand.

The aerial view of the property as it is today highlights the old river bed at the back of the property. This also shows the close proximity of the property to the ocean. This maritime climate provides a cooling sea breeze in the early mornings and late afternoons during the long hot summers.

VINTAGE NEWS 2013: One of the best vintages we have seen in the Gisborne region this century!

Looking back over the entire growing season, the Gisborne region experienced some cool weather in Spring. This resulted in some frost damage to parts of the region. One of our grower blocks where we source out popular Matawhero Chardonnay, the Tietjen vineyard, was damaged. More cool weather at flowering also limited the crop levels, resulting in small berries and bunches giving extremely intense flavours and colour. The summer in Gisborne was glorious, except if you are a farmer! With long sunshine hours coupled with a lack of disease and rainfall, the harvest progressed in a very orderly fashion. For the first time in many a season, we harvested the grapes exactly when we wanted to, a very nice feeling!

At the time of writing this vintage summary the Chardonnays are in malolactic fermentation. They have an intensity of fruit not seen for 20 years and carry great weight and length early in their lives. The new varieties that we have used for our Church House series of wine have performed extremely well. One of the new kids on the block – The Albariño is extremely aromatic and has retained its acidity and looks a

good fit for Gisborne viticulturally. The second crop of Grüner Veltliner is even more intense than last year, with excellent stonefruit characters and good palate weight. We are looking forward to seeing this at Christmas once it has been bottled and ready for those long Summer lunches. It is our first year of the new Matawhero Chenin Blanc (The Irwin's use to make this wine in their hey day). The wine has finished fermentation and remains on lees to gain complexity. It is a rich and full style in the tradition of the old Matawhero.

The reds, due to the intense heat over the ripening period (Gisborne had two days of summer over 35 degrees this year) are almost black in colour. The Pinot Noir is big and grunty with a colour usually associated with Central Otago wines. The Merlot is a deeply coloured, brooding wine with length and vitality. This will be the best Merlot we have produced out of the region in years! All the reds are a little clumsy as they go through malolactic fermentation, but the potential is huge.

To top it all off, we have produced a stunning Pinot Rosé for the range to enjoy over those Summer months.



Kirsten & Richard Searle

CELLAR DOOR

Matawhero Wines Cellar Door

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Our Cellar Door is 10kms from Gisborne City, south on the main highway, 1km up Riverpoint Road.

For all trade enquiries please contact Hancocks on 0800 699 463



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