

Established 1968

# MATAWHERO MAGIC

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



With all the wines in the winery, it is time to reflect on another stunning vintage here at Matawhero.

As with last season, the 2014 harvest has also produced some amazing fruit flavours. Hard to believe, two fantastic vintages in a row! Mother Nature has indeed been kind to us here in Gisborne. Now with the Autumn weather upon us, the leaves in the vineyard are dropping to the ground and soon we will embark on pruning and so another season starts in the vineyard.

Last month saw the release of our new red, the Matawhero 2013 Church House Malbec. We knew this parcel of fruit was special from the moment it entered the winery, with its inky colour it oozed ripeness in the vineyard and will be one to enjoy over the coming Winter months.

Last week, the 4th Gisborne Regional Wine Awards were held here in Gisborne and Matawhero was proudly awarded the Trophy for the Highest Awarded Wine Company along with four Gold Medals. It is very exciting to be recognised for the hard work our family, winemaking team and growers have put in over the past 6 years since we purchased Matawhero and we hope you enjoy reading about our success.

Thank you to all for your support of our wines and all the best for the coming Winter months. We look forward to bringing you some more fantastic wine from the 2014 vintage once they are released in Spring.

Salute

*Kirsten & Richard*

## ACCOLADES FOR OUR STUNNING 2013 WINES

### GISBORNE REGIONAL WINE AWARDS 2014

- Trophy for Highest Awarded Wine Company
- Gold Medal & Trophy for Best New Wine – 2013 Church House Albariño
- Trophy for Lead Viticulturist – Jeremy Hyland
- Gold Medal & Trophy – 2013 Pinot Rosé
- Gold Medal & Trophy – 2013 Church House Arneis
- Gold Medal – 2013 Church House Chenin Blanc
- Class Winners – 2013 Chardonnay and 2013 Church House Malbec

## 2013 CHURCH HOUSE MALBEC

★★★★★ 5 STARS AND TOP WINE, DISH MAGAZINE JUNE-JULY 2014

"Beautifully glossy, vivid scarlet-black in the glass bursting with ripe plum, raspberry and cherry characters on the nose", noted Yvonne Lorkin. Cameron Douglas said "the wine was very well made". Packed with fresh fruits and lifted spices it has hefty acidity and lovely follow through on the palate. Stunning stuff.



## 2013 CHURCH HOUSE CHENIN BLANC

★★★★ 4 STARS, CUISINE MAGAZINE – MAY 2014

Chenin Blanc has a long history in Gisborne. Now that quality-driven wineries like Matawhero are devoting care to the variety, attractive renditions such as this are restoring Chenin Blanc's reputation". This wine has lovely floral, lime, stonefruit and honeysuckle notes with a nice acidity and creaminess on the palate. Beautiful with seafood and poultry"



Celebrate the return of an old favourite



VINTAGE NEWS:

# 2014 - Another great season for Gisborne!



The "vintage of a lifetime" in 2013 was followed with an equally if not superior vintage in 2014. A relatively wet Winter replenished soil moisture levels which was needed with only around half the average rainfall occurring during the growing season. The dream run of weather leading up to vintage threatened to break on numerous occasions, but patience and nerve were rewarded with near perfect ripening conditions. We were

very fortunate that flavours in the fruit developed early this season.

A big positive for the team at Matawhero was the higher than normal acid retention in the fruit, providing vibrancy and length. With good fruit weight on the palate this has resulted in beautifully balanced wines.

At the time of writing this vintage summary, most of our white wines are through their primary fermentation so you

can see the quality of the wines already. The Pinot Gris made from new ENTAV-INRA Clone 457 continues to impress and our new other white varieties like Chenin Blanc and Albariño all look impressive early in their lives. The Chardonnay's are still in malolactic fermentation and have an amazing creaminess and fruit weight already. It will indeed be exciting to see if these wines can surpass the quality of 2013 once they are bottled later in the year.



## STORIES FROM THE PAST:

### The Matawhero Timeline (1910–1970)

Everyone has a story about Matawhero! Here is a snippet of our history for you to keep and collect with each of our newsletters or visit <http://matawhero.co.nz/about-us/timeline/>.

1910 - W. N. Irwin (Bill) is born in Gisborne. Considered the father of modern viticulture in NZ, it was his drive and enthusiasm that led to the importation of new grape varieties from Europe and America into NZ from 1969-1970.

1947 - Denis Irwin is born in Gisborne, New Zealand.

1968 - Bill purchases the land at Riverpoint Road at a time when people either raised livestock or maize on the Poverty Bay flats. He plants the original block in Riesling, Chassalas and Pinotage. The Pinotage, which performed poorly, is later replaced by Chardonnay and Gewürztraminer along with smaller plots of Sauvignon Blanc, Chenin Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Malbec and Syrah and Pinot Noir.

1969 - The Matawhero vineyards supply contract grapes for the local wineries. As a bookseller with no horticulture background people laughed at Bill all the time, but the clones propagated by Matawhero were taken up by most NZ vineyards to form the basis of the emerging industry.

1970 - To gain overseas experience Denis worked in wineries in South Africa and at the Breisack winery on the Alsace-German border.

## Great Reds for Winter!

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

### 2013 PINOT NOIR

While the Gisborne region is not recognised for Pinot Noir, we can produce a wonderful style with its own regional differences. This lovely 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.

### 2013 MERLOT

A wonderful Merlot from a stunning vintage this wine has complex aromas 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 WINES CELLAR DOOR

189 Riverpoint Road, RD1, Gisborne, Phone 06 867 6140

Email [kirsten@matawhero.co.nz](mailto:kirsten@matawhero.co.nz)

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



## Celebrate the return of an old favourite