

Established 1968

# MATAWHERO MAGIC

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

Another season starts to flourish in the vineyards as the lovely warm Spring weather welcomes us into flowering for another year.

The promise of an El Nino weather pattern this Summer has us excited on the East Coast that a long dry hot weather pattern will produce another superb vintage. However, as grapegrowers, we know that we still need to work hard in the vineyard to ensure our quality surpasses previous seasons.

We have been busy with our bottling program over the past few months and this month saw the bottling of the new vintage 2015 Church House Chenin Blanc. On the back of the stunning 2014 Chenin Blanc, which was awarded a GOLD Medal and TROPHY at the 2015 Spiegelau International Wine Awards, we are excited at the beautiful flavours this wine exhibits early in its life and look forward to the wine being released early in the New Year.

Our Cellar Door has just re-opened for the Summer season. The Matawhero Magic Rose is in full bloom at the entrance and provides wonderful Summer colour. We are looking forward to sharing our wines and stories of Matawhero to the many wine traveller who visit and enjoy a glass of wine under the shade of our magnificent walnut tree or marvels at the history in our underground cellar.

Gisborne will host in February 2016, the inaugural New Zealand Winegrowers Chardonnay and Sparkling Symposium and Matawhero will be proud to host the welcome dinner. Over 120 delegates from around the world will meet in Gisborne to discuss New Zealand Chardonnay and Sparkling wine. Matawhero's founder, Bill Irwin, also considered the father of modern viticulture in New Zealand, was responsible for importing some of the first clones of Mendoza Chardonnay into the country so it seems fitting that we will be part of these celebrations.

We wish you and your family a very happy, healthy and safe festive season and we look forward to the new releases in 2016.

Salute

*Kirsten & Richard*

Kirsten & Richard



## WINES FOR SUMMER

Perfect wines for those long Summer lunches, BBQs or weekends away at the kiwi bach.

### MATAWHERO 2015 PINOT ROSÉ

★★★★ 4 1/2 STARS, WINE ORBIT



"Delightfully fresh and fragrant, the bouquet shows peach, red apple and raspberry characters with a hint of floral lift. The palate is juicy and lively, and displays excellent fruit purity, finishing long and refreshing."

Enjoy as an aperitif or with Summer salads or seafood.

### MATAWHERO 2014 PINOT GRIS

★★★★★ 5 STARS, WINE ORBIT



We love this drier style of Pinot Gris made from a new French ENTAV clone with a lovely small berries and loose bunch set which intensifies the aromatics, fruit flavours and texture in the wine.

Perfect with fish, chicken, pork or Japanese inspired cuisine.

### MATAWHERO 2013 CHURCH HOUSE ALBARINO



A beautiful, fresh and lively Summer wine with fresh citrus notes. This variety is originally from the northern parts of Spain but has now found a home in Gisborne and is our alternative to Sauvignon Blanc.

Enjoy with seafood, chicken or paella.

Celebrate the return of an old favourite



# The Matawhero Name

Often the first question we are asked as people visit the cellar door, is what does the name Matawhero mean. Matawhero (pronounced MATA-FEAR-O in the Maori language) is a geography that sits seven kilometres west of Gisborne, on the East Coast of New Zealand, and is home to the oldest building in the East Coast district – the Matawhero Church, which graces our wine label.

For the original owners, Bill and Denis Irwin, using the church on our labels represented more than rich heritage. It served as a symbol for their purist approach to making wines, which we continue to honour today.

## STORIES FROM THE PAST: The Matawhero Timeline (1981-1982)



### 1981

The wines are in the Queen's cellar and in demand by some of New Zealand's political figures including Prime Minister Robert Muldoon. Denis tells us that at the time in Gisborne the Member of Parliament was National's Bob Bell who liked to bring the visiting politicians to the Matawhero Winery and Cellar Door when they came to Gisborne.

### 1981

Denis produces some of the best selection of wines across the board at Matawhero only to run into a problem with leaky corks.

### 1982

Gisborne experiences a long, dry summer resulting in a superb grape crop and exceptional vintage, one of the best seen in Gisborne in many years.

### 1982

The 1982 Chardonnay achieved 8 out of 100 in a wine show in New York.

“

*We felt a morality to the product and the church represented this well, as well as being one of the most iconic buildings in the area.*

”

Denis Irwin, Matawhero Winemaker 1975-2008



## CELLAR DOOR

Come and join us over Summer and relax with family and friends over great wine, gourmet platters and live music from Sunday 27th December to end of February.

Opening hours are: December – Thursday to Monday, 11am to 5pm.  
(Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day)

Open 7 days from 27th December to end of January, 11am to 5pm.

Feb/March – Open Thursday to Monday, 11am to 5pm

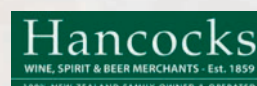


### Matawhero Wines Cellar Door

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