

Established 1968

# MATAWHERO MAGIC

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



Warm golden colours, blue skies and sheep in the vineyard are part of the new season at Matawhero.

With another good growing year over and the wines in the winery, we can relax on the verandah at home and reflect on another Gisborne vintage. Overall, a very solid vintage for Matawhero and Gisborne. Highlights for our winemaking team are the Chardonnays with great aromatics and plenty of flavour and weight. We trust you enjoy reading our vintage news over the page.

We have had such a mild and warm Autumn this year that it is hard to believe that Winter will ever come. Whilst we enjoy this warm weather, it is a necessary part of the lifecycle of the vineyard to have colder weather before pruning to get us ready for the new season.

Last week the annual Gisborne Regional Wine Awards were held – a celebration of our region! The team at Matawhero were very excited to receive a Gold Medal for our 2015 Church House Chardonnay which will be released later this month. With three of the four Gold Medals awarded at the show for Chardonnay, it highlights the suitability of the variety to our Gisborne terroir.

We are looking forward to attending the New Zealand Boutique Wine Festival in Auckland mid-June, where we will showcase our current release wines along with hosting a vertical tasting session. Here we will be tasting three consecutive vintages of our Gewürztraminer and Chenin Blanc (2013, 2014 and 2015), two of our favourite varieties who age well so it will be great to try these side by side.

We look forward to catching up in Spring when we release some of the new wines.

*All the best for Winter!*

*Kirsten & Richard*

## ACCOLADES FOR OUR STUNNING WINES

We proudly carry on the tradition of producing award-winning wines that reflect our unique Gisborne terroir.

- GOLD – Matawhero 2015 Church House Chardonnay
- 94 Points – Matawhero 2015 Church House Chenin Blanc, [WINE ORBIT MARCH 2016](#)
- 93 Points – Matawhero 2015 Pinot Gris, [WINE ORBIT, MARCH 2016](#)
- Pure Gold – Matawhero 2013 Church House Arneis, [AIR NZ WINE AWARDS](#)
- 91 Points – Matawhero 2015 Gewürztraminer, [WINE ORBIT, SEPT 2015](#)
- GOLD/TROPHY – 2013 Church House Albariño, [GISBORNE WINE AWARDS](#)
- 90 Points – Matawhero 2015 Chardonnay, [WINE ORBIT, MARCH 2016](#)
- 90 Points – Matawhero 2015 Pinot Rosé, [WINE ORBIT, SEPTEMBER 2015](#)

Highest Awarded Wine Company Trophy

- [GISBORNE REGIONAL WINE AWARDS 2014](#)



## 2015 CHURCH HOUSE BARREL FERMENTED CHARDONNAY

**GOLD - Gisborne Regional Wine Awards 2016**

Harvested from the famous Tietjen vineyard in the Golden Slopes region of Gisborne, this wine is made from young Mendoza Chardonnay vines which achieved superior ripeness and flavours in 2015. Fermented in oaked barriques and with 100% malolactic fermentation, this wine is rich and complex and a lovely Gisborne Chardonnay.



Celebrate the return of an old favourite



## VINTAGE NEWS:

# 2016 - Another Solid Vintage for Matawhero and the Gisborne region!



The El Niño weather pattern gave us a very dry Spring and early Summer before moving to a neutral pattern and into a La Niña, which brought much needed rain at the end of January and end of February. The canopies of the vines were struggling before these rain events, but reinvigorated, the vine took the fruit through to full ripeness.

The timing of the rains were very important from a quality perspective with a majority of the rain events falling outside of veraison (changing of the colour in the berries). This ensured that the smaller berries were not damaged and we retained an impressive concentration of flavours in the whites and great colour in the reds.

Harvest started for us on the 11th of March with Pinot Gris and Pinot Noir for our gorgeous Pinot Rosé. The harvest analysis were ideal for the

delicate styles of both varieties we are making. Next off the block was our "baby" Mendoza Chardonnay from the famous Tietjen vineyard. We call it "baby" as the vines are young. This fruit had great sunlight exposure and the golden berries were harvested mid-March and should be our best parcel yet. This fruit has been put into some new oak barriques and will form part of our top-tier Chardonnay that we are looking to release mid-2017. Watch this space!

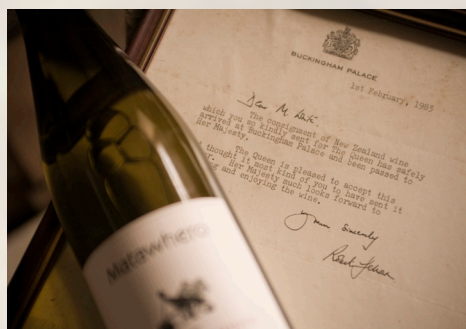
The white label Chardonnay (also Mendoza from the Tietjen block) was harvested about a week later. Sitting at around 8 tonnes to the hectare, it was beautifully ripe with those lovely stonefruit and melon notes. This wine is currently moving through malolactic fermentation and looks like it will pack a little more punch than the 2015 vintage!

Our reds, Merlot and Malbec, were harvested early April and are very impressive at this early stage of their life, with an amazing richness of colour. Dark and brooding these should develop into some of the best red wines we have produced at Matawhero.

Last but not least the Chenin Blanc (in true style as the variety is very late ripening) ended harvest for us on the 12th of April. This is an exciting variety to deal with and due to lower acidity this year in the fruit, the 2016 Chenin will be a little drier than the past vintages but still packed with layers of flavour.

Overall, a very solid vintage for Matawhero and Gisborne. Highlights I think will be the Chardonnays with good aromatics and plenty of flavour to boot.

## STORIES FROM THE PAST: The Matawhero Timeline



### 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 when they came to Gisborne.

### 1981

Denis recalls 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

## GREAT REDS FOR WINTER!

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

### MATAWHERO 2015 MERLOT

Our Gisborne Merlot is fruity, savoury, soft and rounded.

Beautiful with mild meat dishes and tapas

### MATAWHERO 2015 CHURCH HOUSE MALBEC

The palate is big and fruity with hints of plum, blackberry, dried herbs and a nice riper tannic finish.

Enjoy with any red meat dishes.



### 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