

Wine Orbit

Your Ultimate New Zealand Wine Review
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About Wine Orbit

It's a new publication featuring reviews of New Zealand wines and wines of the world. It is solely written by Sam Kim unless otherwise stated. Its aim is to provide the wine industry, trade and wine enthusiasts with extensive and detailed wine reviews from a senior wine judge's perspective. In each issue there will be themes focusing on particular variety, style and/or region. Wines reviewed in *Wine Orbit* are either submitted by the producer/distributor, or from trade events. There is an entry fee for wine submission (NZ\$34), as in wine shows and competitions. For enquiries please contact Sam Kim: sam@wineorbit.co.nz or visit www.wineorbit.co.nz.
Twitter: @wineorbit Facebook: www.facebook.com/wineorbit

About the tasting and scoring

Tasting

Wines are tasted by Sam Kim at his home office unless otherwise stated. Each wine is rated out of 20 points then converted to 100-points and five-star scales – two of the most effective and easy to understand rating systems. Wines are tasted using Riedel Ouverture Magnum and Riedel Ouverture White Wine glasses.

Ratings

5 Stars	100 pts	
5 Stars	96 – 100	Exceptional quality exhibiting highest level of concentration and complexity.
5 Stars	93 – 95	Outstanding quality showing varietal purity and exemplifying regional type.
4½ Stars	89 – 92	Excellent quality showing high level of concentration and balance.
4 Stars	85 – 88	Very good quality displaying attractive flavours and good balance.
3½ Stars	81 – 84	Good quality, easy drinking with straightforward flavours.

Not all wine reviews are published including those rated below 3½ stars.

Prices

Prices quoted are supplied by the entrant (where not supplied, estimates are used) and are an indication only as they can vary considerably depending on the location, the type of promotion, etc. All prices are in \$NZ.

Subscription Info

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1 Year's Subscription: NZ\$30 including GST for 6 issues (sent via e-mail in pdf). Please visit www.wineorbit.co.nz

About Sam Kim

Sam has been involved for the past 25 years in New Zealand hospitality, wine retail, importing and distribution, as well as running wine courses and master classes. He holds a Certificate in Winemaking from EIT (Hawke's Bay), and has been judging wine for the last 15 years at various wine competitions and magazines, and is currently a senior judge at the New Zealand International Wine Show, the Easter Show Wine Awards, Cowra Show and the Spiegelau International Wine Competition. He is also a regular panel member for Cuisine magazine. Sam does not have a financial interest, directly or indirectly, in a winery, importer, distributor or any company involved in wine marketing. Sam lives in Auckland, New Zealand, with a young family and has a goal of running a sub-3 hour marathon.



New Zealand Chardonnay (206 wines reviewed)

I'm dreaming of a perfect chardonnay.

There are few things more satisfying than drinking great chardonnay. And there aren't many things more frustrating than sipping a bad glass of chardonnay. What makes good or great chardonnay?

Chardonnay must show fruit characters. It's not about intense fruit flavours, but the fruit is the core, the base, the pivot, the hero. It shouldn't be excessively oxidative or reductive as they take away or mask fruit characters, and it shouldn't be over oaked or under ripe. It needs fruit concentration surrounded by delicate layers of subtleties. A great chardonnay should be so intricately complex that it's indescribable. Yes, it's easy for me to say. But occasionally a wine gets pretty close to that sublime perfection. I also enjoy well-made, moderately-priced chardonnays without all the trimmings, as long as they are pristine and balanced. Nothing wrong with good honest tasty chardonnay.

Thankfully New Zealand chardonnays are better than ever. Top examples are precise yet complex; powerful yet refined. There are numerous excellent wines at all levels. However, it remains unpredictable in style and quality. Diversity is part of the appeal of this noble grape, as it can be expressed in many ways – from lean and crisp to rich and opulent; lightly oaked to smothered in wood; and varying degrees of flinty/reductive characters. And for every bottle of thrilling chardonnay, there is an underwhelming one – flavourless and characterless, neither here nor there. At least a straightforward, tank-fermented chardonnay with bright fruit flavours is a pleasant drink, yet there are ones that are just lacking, very sad.

Recent vintages have yielded some remarkable wines. I have tasted many showing individual brilliance with supreme balance and harmony. These wines mature gradually and graciously. Here are brief comments on recent years.

2013: Should be a great vintage. Only a few everyday-drinking wines have been released to date but the signs are good, as they show clean fruit intensity and balanced acidity. All key regions experienced favourable conditions from the far north to the deep south. There will be many delicious offerings at every price point. Probably the best (across all regions) chardonnay vintage in recent times.

2012: Good, bad, and everything in between. This was the summer we didn't have, although autumn was excellent in some areas, the wines generally don't have the fruit concentration and density, and seem to lack the mid palate weight. However, there are some (surprisingly) outstanding offerings. As often is the case in Burgundy, this is a vintage where you need to buy from quality producers.

2011: Not as convincing as the great 2010 vintage, but like 2012, this year produced some gorgeous wines. And like 2012, follow reliable producers and you'll find beautifully fruited, complex chardonnays that can be enjoyed now and over the next 2 to 3 years.

Hawke's Bay and Marlborough dominate the chardonnay scene in both volume and quality. Smaller in scale but high in quality regions-Wairarapa (Martinborough, Gladstone, Masterton), North Canterbury (including Waipara Valley) and Nelson- once again delivered some distinctive, thought-provoking examples. Auckland too pitched in with shining stars, led by the great Kumeu River. While Gisborne, our third largest chardonnay region, no longer produces many top-notch wines.

Central Otago is a region to watch. Tiny in volume: 46.6 hectares of chardonnay in a region boasting 1,776 ha in total vineyard. I am told some of the clones planted are suited to making sparkling wines than table wine. Yet, there are a handful of wines displaying ripeness, balance and complexity. More to come from this exciting region I suspect.

In production and consumption volume, Chardonnay had a setback over the last decade. However, the style continues to evolve and the quality keeps improving, delivering greater diversity and better longevity. The challenge remains in defining a New Zealand 'voice', which is a tough task as the grape is relatively neutral and the winemaking influence often strong. I believe given time, with older vines and confident winemaking, chardonnays from this country will be more expressive of the fruit, the vineyard and the region.

Producing Areas in hectares

	2006	2013
Gisborne Chardonnay	1,081	794
Gisborne Total Vineyard	1,913	1,592
Hawke's Bay Chard	1,134	996
Hawke's Bay Total	4,346	4,898
Marlborough Chard	1,045	1,028
Marlborough Total	11,488	22,861
NZ Chardonnay	3,779	3,140
NZ Total Vineyard	22,051	34,643

Source: Vineyard Register Report and Statistical Annual
New Zealand Winegrowers

Due to limited space reviews below 85 points are not published.

Archery	Chardonnay 2013 It's beautifully lifted on the nose showing ripe citrus, peach and a hint of nutty characters, leading to a juicy palate filled with attractive fruit flavours. The wine is smooth and refreshing. At its best: now to 2017. \$16.00. Moderate availability. Oct 2013.	Gisborne	86	4 Stars
Aronui	Single Vineyard Chardonnay 2012 A richly flavoured chardonnay, the attractive bouquet shows yellow peach, mango, citrus and subtle toasty oak characters. It's succulent and nicely weighted on the palate with a creamy mouthfeel, leading to a lengthy tasty finish. At its best: now to 2016. \$25.00. Widely available. 13%. Screw cap. www.aronuiwines.co.nz. Aug 2013.	Nelson	88	4 Stars
Babich	Irongate Chardonnay 2009 It's youthful yet showing excellent intensity and harmony on the nose, showing peach, tropical fruit and vanillin oak characters. The palate is concentrated and weighty with silky texture and a long expansive finish. This is more forward than other vintages of Irongate Chardonnays, making it immensely drinkable already. Just gorgeous. Grapes were grown on their vineyard in the Gimblett Gravels district, whole bunch pressed, fermented in French oak (25% new) using indigenous yeast, then matured for about seven months in barrels. At its best: now to 2015. \$35.00 Moderate availability. 13% Diam cork. www.babichwines.co.nz. Feb 2011.	Hawke's Bay	94	5 Stars
	Irongate Chardonnay 2010 As always, this is a lovely refined expression of the variety displaying citrus, white peach, cashew and subtle vanillin oak characters. The palate is concentrated and focused with silky texture and an extremely long, linear finish. Beautifully framed and structured, this youthful Chardonnay is destined to develop gradually to show greater complexity in time. At its best: 2014 to 2020. \$35.00. Limited availability. 14% Diam cork. Dec 2011.	Hawke's Bay	94	5 Stars
	Irongate Chardonnay 2012 It's beautifully restrained on the nose showing white peach, oatmeal, citrus and subtle vanillin oak aromas, leading to a concentrated palate that's finely texture and beautifully structured. It's delicate, elegant and youthful, just needs time to show it's true greatness. Very promising. At its best: 2015 to 2022. \$35.00. Moderate availability. Oct 2013.	Hawke's Bay	93	5 Stars
	Chardonnay 2013 Youthful and charming, this is immediately appealing on the nose with ripe peach, citrus and a hint of nutty characters. The palate is equally attractive with a succulent mouthfeel and nicely balanced acidity. It's smooth, fruit-expressive and very friendly on the palate. At its best: now to 2017. \$22.00. Moderate availability. Oct 2013.	Hawke's Bay	86	4 Stars
Balthazar	Chardonnay 2010 Opulent and generous, the richly fragrant bouquet shows yellow peach, mango, vanilla and butterscotch aromas, leading to a sumptuous palate that's filled with attractive flavours. The wine is rounded and expansive, and beautifully silky to the finish. One for those who love flavour-rich chardonnays. At its best: now to 2015. \$28.00. Jan 2014.	Hawke's Bay	93	5 Stars
	Chardonnay 2011 A stylish chardonnay, the elegant and complex bouquet shows stone fruit, citrus and roasted nut aromas, leading to a focused palate that's silky and flowing, beautifully framed by bright acidity. It's long and linear, and delightful to drink. At its best: now to 2015. \$28.00. Jan 2014.	Hawke's Bay	91	4.5 Stars
Bell Bird Bay	Reserve Chardonnay 2013 A delicious chardonnay with plenty of appealing flavours, it's beautifully lifted on the nose displaying ripe peach, tropical fruit, cedar and vanilla notes. The palate is succulent and rounded with excellent fruit intensity and creamy texture, leading to a lingering smooth finish. At its best: now to 2017. \$26.00. April 2014.	Hawke's Bay	90	4.5 Stars
Black Cottage	Chardonnay 2013 It's elegantly aromatic on the nose displaying white stone fruit, citrus and a hint of flint, leading to a juicy palate that's pristine and delicate with vibrant fruit intensity and crisp acidity. The wine shows plenty of attractive flavours, nicely framed by fine texture and rounded mouthfeel. At its best: now to 2017. \$17.00. www.blackcottage.co.nz. March 2014.	Marlborough	87	4 Stars
Black Estate	Omih Series Chardonnay 2010 Beautifully expressed, this is a stunning young chardonnay displaying white peach, citrus, oatmeal and vanillin oak characters on the nose. The palate is concentrated and focused with rich creamy texture and a fabulously long finish. Seamless, complex and immensely enjoyable now, and it will develop magnificently. At its best: now to 2018. 14.5% Screw cap. May 2012.	Waipara Valley	95	5 Stars

Blanket Hills	Slow Burn Chardonnay 2012 It's immediately appealing on the nose showing peach, mango, cream and subtle vanilla notes. The palate is succulent and rounded with silky texture and lovely fruit intensity, beautifully supported by well-integrated acidity. It's friendly and delectable with plenty of attractive flavours. At its best: now to 2016. 13.5%. Screw cap. Sept 2013.	Hawke's Bay	88	4 Stars
Brightwater Vineyards	Chardonnay 2012 A beautifully expressive chardonnay, the complex bouquet shows stone fruit and citrus with subtle almond and vanilla notes. It's concentrated and expansive on the palate with superb mid palate weight, beautifully supported by rich texture and integrated acidity. The wine shows excellent balance and harmony. It's already a charmer but sure to develop greater richness. At its best: now to 2018. \$25.00. Moderate availability. Jan 2014.	Nelson	93	5 Stars
Carrick	Bannockburn Chardonnay 2012 The wine shows lovely complexity on the nose with ripe citrus, nectarine, vanillin oak and a hint of oatmeal. It's elegantly structured on the palate with excellent weight and texture, backed by bright acidity. A stylish chardonnay offering plenty of appealing flavours. At its best: now to 2017. \$29.00. Widely available. Certified organic. www.carrick.co.nz. March 2014.	Central Otago	91	4.5 Stars
	"EBM" Chardonnay 2011 This is gorgeous. The fragrant bouquet shows yellow peach, citrus, oatmeal and elegantly infused cedary oak aromas, followed by a concentrated palate that's full and expansive, beautifully supported by integrated acidity. It's powerful yet refined. At its best: now to 2017. \$34.00. Nov 2013.	Central Otago	93	5 Stars
Chard Farm	Judge & Jury Chardonnay 2011 A lovely complex-style, the fragrant bouquet shows ripe citrus, apple, dill and almond characters, followed by a creamy palate that's both delightfully smooth and crisp. Grapes were sourced from Tiger Vineyard, and fermented mostly in stainless steel tanks (80%). A stylish chardonnay offering elegant richness. At its best: now to 2017. Sept 2013.	Central Otago	90	4.5 Stars
	Closeburn Chardonnay 2012 Elegant and restrained, this un-oaked chardonnay shows delicacy and lightness. The bouquet is gently aromatic with grapefruit, peach and flinty notes. It's taut, linear and finely textured on the palate with well-balanced acidity providing excellent length. At its best: now to 2016. Sept 2013.	Central Otago	87	4 Stars
Cheviot Vineyard	Chardonnay 2012 It's elegantly fragrant on the nose showing yellow peach, grapefruit, cream and subtle toasty oak characters. The palate is medium-full and nicely weighted with silky texture, backed by firm acidity. Well structured and balanced with a lengthy dry finish. At its best: now to 2016. \$20.00. Limited availability. 13.5%. Screw cap. Sept 2013.	Cheviot, North Canterbury	85	4 Stars
Clearview	Reserve Chardonnay 2012 This is a stunning chardonnay. As usual, it's rich and flavoursome but with added refinement and complexity. The gloriously complex bouquet shows yellow peach, citrus, oatmeal and beautifully infused vanillin oak characters. It's concentrated and focused on the palate with superb mid palate weight and texture, leading to a long, expansive finish. The wine should evolve gracefully. At its best: now to 2020. \$39.00. Moderate availability. Nov 2013.	Hawke's Bay	94	5 Stars
	White Caps Chardonnay 2012 A highly enjoyable chardonnay, the beautifully fragrant bouquet shows stone fruit, ripe citrus, vanilla and roasted almond characters on the nose, followed by a succulent palate that's fruit rich and silky. It's smooth, long and flavoursome. At its best: now to 2017. \$29.00. Limited availability. Dec 2013.	Hawke's Bay	91	4.5 Stars
Clearwater Cove	Chardonnay 2013 A very friendly chardonnay, the inviting bouquet shows ripe stone fruit, citrus and subtle vanilla notes, leading to a nicely rounded palate that's fruit expressive and pleasingly dry. Well balanced and smooth, the wine is very easy on the palate. At its best: now to 2017. \$17.00. Widely available. www.yealandsestate.co.nz. Jan 2014.	East Coast	87	4 Stars
Cloudy Bay	Chardonnay 2011 Cloudy Bay Chardonnays have been known to mature beautifully, and no doubt this will too, yet this wine shows immediate appeal and charm as well. The fragrant bouquet shows stone fruit, citrus, oatmeal and subtly infused cedary oak aromas. It's concentrated and richly textured on the palate with excellent intensity, backed by beautifully integrated acidity. Multi-layered and very promising. At its best: now to 2022. \$34.00. Moderate availability. Nov 2013.	Marlborough	94	5 Stars
	Chardonnay 2009 Extremely well known for their Sauvignon Blanc, Cloudy Bay's Chardonnay is also a real gem. This 2009 offering is another beauty, displaying complex aromas of stone fruit, pineapple, oatmeal and subtle vanillin oak. It's concentrated and powerful on the palate with creamy texture and bright acidity providing a superb structure and a lengthy finish. A stylish Chardonnay already gratifying to drink now but should evolve gracefully. At its best: now to 2018. \$38.00. Widely available. 14% Screw cap. www.cloudybay.co.nz. Nov 2011.	Marlborough	94	5 Stars

Coopers Creek	SV 'The Limeworks' Chardonnay 2013	Hawke's Bay	93	5 Stars	A stunning chardonnay, the complex bouquet shows nectarine, ripe citrus, vanilla and cedar characters. It's concentrated and richly textured on the palate with excellent weight, leading to a lingering creamy finish. The wine is expressive and immensely appealing. At its best: now to 2017. \$24.00. Limited availability. www.cooperscreek.co.nz. Feb 2014.
	SV Chardonnay "The Limeworks" 2012	Hawke's Bay	93	5 Stars	This has become one of the best mid-tier chardonnays. Every year the wine delivers loads of appealing flavours. It's inviting on the nose displaying stone fruit, mango, vanilla and cedar characters. The palate is also super charming with excellent fruit weight and silky texture, leading to a lingering creamy finish. At its best: now to 2017. \$24.00. Moderate availability. Oct 2013.
Craggy Range	'Les Beaux Cailloux' Chardonnay 2011	Hawke's Bay	95	5 Stars	What a promising wine. The complex bouquet shows white peach, citrus, oatmeal and subtle vanilla characters. It's concentrated and focused on the palate with outstanding mid palate weight and texture, leading to a linear, silky finish. Wonderful poise and integration. Already a charmer and sure to develop gracefully. Grapes were whole-bunch pressed, fermented in French oak barriques (42% new), and matured in barrels for 10 months. At its best: 2014 to 2020. \$63.00. 13.5%. Screw cap. www.craggyrange.com. June 2013.
	Chardonnay Kidnappers Vineyard 2012	Hawke's Bay	88	4 Stars	Stylish and restrained, the delicately complex bouquet shows white stone fruit, citrus, oatmeal and subtle vanillin oak aromas. It's ripe and focused on the palate with fine texture and refreshing acidity. The finish is linear, elegant and very long. At its best: 2014 to 2018. \$25.00. 12.5%. Screw cap. www.craggyrange.com. Sept 2013.
Crossroads	Winemakers Collection Chardonnay 2011	Hawke's Bay	94	5 Stars	A powerful rendition, the gloriously complex bouquet shows mango, stone fruit, roasted nuts and vanilla characters, followed by a concentrated and richly textured palate. It's superbly long and velvety with a creamy finish. A sumptuous chardonnay that keeps on giving. At its best: now to 2017. \$40.00. Moderate availability. Nov 2013.
	Milestone Series Chardonnay 2013	Hawke's Bay	90	4.5 Stars	This is generous and richly flavoured, displaying lifted aromas of yellow peach, citrus and almond with subtle butterscotch complexity. The palate is succulent and full, and finishes beautifully silky. A gorgeous opulent chardonnay showing plenty of appealing flavours. At its best: now to 2017. Jan 2014.
Cypress	Terraces Chardonnay 2012	Hawke's Bay	93	5 Stars	Refined and elegant, yet rich and flavoursome. The fragrant bouquet shows white peach, grapefruit, toasted almond and subtle vanilla aromas, leading to a succulent palate that's focused and finely textured, backed by bright acidity. It's beautifully structured and lingering. At its best: now to 2018. \$32.00. Moderate availability. Dec 2013.
Dry River	Chardonnay 2012	Martinborough	94	5 Stars	This is cracking good. The elegantly fragrant bouquet shows white peach and citrus with hints of vanilla and brioche. Youthful and most delightful. It's concentrated and focused on the palate with creamy texture, perfectly balanced by bright acidity. Lovely flow and superbly long. The wine shows firm structure as always, yet it's already charming and inviting. A lovely wine to watch its development. At its best: 2015 to 2022. \$54.00. Nov 2013.
	Chardonnay 2011	Martinborough	95	5 Stars	It's elegant, fine and inviting on the nose, displaying white peach, lemon pith, floral, cashew and a hint of vanilla notes. The palate is concentrated and refined with silky texture and excellent weight, leading to an extremely long finish backed by bright acidity. Youthful, delicate and most promising. At its best: 2015 to 2022. 13.5% Natural cork. Dec 2012.
	Chardonnay 2010	Martinborough	95-97	5 Stars	Stylish as always, this youthful Chardonnay is another outstanding effort from Katy Hammond and the team at Dry River. Deceptively approachable but a wine that will age for a decade. The bouquet is delicately fragrant displaying white peach, grapefruit and floral characters with hints of vanilla and mealy notes. The palate is concentrated and finely textured with a seamless mouthfeel, brilliantly supported by racy acidity. The lengthy is extremely long. At its best: 2015 to 2024. \$53.00. 13.5% Natural cork. Oct 2011.
Dunnolly	Single Vineyard Family Estate Chardonnay 2013	Waipara Valley	87	4 Stars	It's beautifully ripe and generous on the nose displaying apricot, pineapple, citrus and a hint of vanillin oak characters. The palate is nicely weighted and fruited with creamy texture, leading to a lengthy silky finish. The free-run juice portion was fermented in French barriques (15% new). At its best: now to 2017. \$22.00. Moderate availability. www.dunnolly.co.nz. March 2014.

Elephant Hill	Chardonnay 2012	Hawke's Bay	91	4.5 Stars	It's expressive and generous on the nose displaying yellow peach, tropical fruit, citrus and vanillin oak aromas. The palate is powerful and flavoursome with excellent mid palate weight and texture, leading to a lingering finish. The wine is expansive, superbly structured by firm acidity. At its best: now to 2017. \$29.00. Feb 2014.
	Chardonnay 2011	Hawke's Bay	91	4.5 Stars	It's beautifully lifted and complex on the nose displaying yellow peach, mango, citrus and vanillin oak characters. The palate is succulent and rounded with rich texture and well balanced acidity, leading to a lengthy, sumptuous finish. It's immediately appealing with gorgeous fruit flavours. At its best: now to 2017. \$29.00. Widely available. 14%. Screw cap. www.elephanthill.co.nz. Aug 2013.
	Reserve Chardonnay 2012	Hawke's Bay	94	5 Stars	This is a multi-layered, beautifully complex chardonnay exhibiting stone fruit, grapefruit, oatmeal and cedary oak aromas on the nose followed by a concentrated palate that's powerful and refined at the same time. The wine shows impressive fruit intensity, beautifully framed by firm acidity providing excellent length. At its best: now to 2020. \$45.00. www.elephanthill.co.nz. Feb 2014.
Escarpment	Kupe Chardonnay 2012	Martinborough	94	5 Stars	A tightly structured chardonnay showing delicate aromas of grapefruit, white peach, oatmeal and a hint of vanillin oak. What's impressive is the palate's focus and weight - outstanding. It's linear and finely textured with brilliantly framed by bright acidity. Long and engaging. At its best: 2015 to 2020. www.escarpment.co.nz. May 2014.
	Kupe Chardonnay 2011	Martinborough	95	5 Stars	Think of a fruit-expressive, rich, oaky chardonnay. Now turn around, and you'll find a stylish wine called Kupe. This is reminiscent of a classy burgundy, exhibiting delicate yet complex aromas of oatmeal, white stone fruit, apple, cream and flint. The palate is equally engaging with silky texture and beautifully melded acidity, leading to an extremely long expansive finish. At its best: 2014 to 2022. \$49.00. 13.5%. March 2013.
	Kupe Chardonnay 2010	Martinborough	90-95	4.5 Stars	2010 Kupe Chardonnay is opaque - not in colour but in nature. Larry McKenna says that they have really 'push the boat out' on this wine. They certainly have. It's strongly savoury on the nose with oatmeal, jasmine, citrus, golden apple and subtle stone fruit characters. The palate is concentrated and richly textured with superb mid palate weight and firm acidity, providing both structure and length. This is a huge departure from the typical fruit-forward New World expression, and will cause excitement to those who enjoy an alternative style, but will likely to confuse many Chardonnay fans. Controversial indeed. Reassuringly, this wine blossomed when matched with food. The 'funky' characters beautifully melded with food flavours, and the textural mouthfeel of the wine enhanced that of the food. It's delightfully bewildering. At its best: 2013 to 2018. \$49.00. 13.5% Natural cork. www.escarpment.co.nz. Feb 2012.
Fairmont Estate	Chardonnay 2012	Wairarapa	87	4 Stars	A generously expressed chardonnay, the lifted bouquet shows yellow peach, golden apple, citrus and spicy oak characters, followed by a rounded palate that's silky and flavoursome. At its best: now to 2016. Dec 2013.
	Chardonnay 2011	Wairarapa	88	4 Stars	It's ripe and fragrant on the nose displaying white peach, citrus, almond and subtle vanilla aromas. The palate is juicy and lively with lovely fruit weight and silky texture, finishing elegantly dry. The wine shows plenty of friendly appealing flavours. At its best: now to 2015. Dec 2013.
Fiddler's Green	Chardonnay 2011	Waipara Valley	87	4 Stars	Generous, ripe and fragrant, the inviting bouquet shows yellow peach, citrus and subtle creamy notes. It's succulent and nicely weighted on the palate with excellent fruit intensity and harmony. The wine is well balanced and smooth to the finish with elegant complexity. At its best: now to 2015. \$25.00. Limited availability. 14.5% Screw cap. www.fiddlersgreen.co.nz. March 2013.
Framingham	Chardonnay 2013	Marlborough	91	4.5 Stars	This is beautifully fruited on the nose displaying yellow peach, mango, ripe citrus and subtle vanillin oak aromas. The palate is succulent and concentrated with creamy texture and excellent fruit intensity, finishing superbly long. The wine is approachable and friendly while showing classic structure and poise. At its best: now to 2018. \$25.00. Moderate availability. www.framingham.co.nz. March 2014.
Frizzell	Chardonnay 2012	Hawke's Bay	88	4 Stars	It's nicely fragrant on the nose displaying yellow peach, citrus and subtle spicy oak characters. The palate is juicy and vibrant with smooth texture. A beautifully balanced chardonnay showing elegant fruit intensity and refreshing acidity. At its best: now to 2016. 13.3% Screw cap. March 2013.

Georges Michel	La Reserve Chardonnay 2010	Marlborough	90	4.5 Stars	This is beautifully focused and finely textured with delicate fruit flavours. The elegant bouquet shows white peach, grapefruit, oatmeal and subtle flinty aromas. It's taut and concentrated on the palate with bright acidity, providing excellent structure and length. Very stylish and engaging. At its best: now to 2017. \$27.00. Moderate availability. www.georgesmichel.co.nz. Dec 2013.
	Golden Mile Chardonnay 2012	Marlborough	87	4 Stars	A lovely expression of the variety displaying ripe peach, citrus and subtle nutty aromas on the nose. The palate is rounded and silky, backed by beautifully pitched acidity, leading to a lingering juicy finish. The wine is approachable and friendly with elegant complexity. At its best: now to 2016. \$22.50. Moderate availability. Nov 2013.
Gibbston Highgate	Heart Breaker Chardonnay 2012	Central Otago	86	4 Stars	The wine is generously flavoured, displaying lifted aromas of apricot, citrus and creamy oak on the nose, leading to a succulent palate that's silky and rounded, backed by bright acidity providing a lingering crisp finish. Rich and flavoursome with lovely fruit intensity. At its best: now to 2016. \$25.00. Moderate availability. Dec 2013.
	Heartbreaker Chardonnay 2013	Central Otago	87	4 Stars	A lovely elegant rendition showing delicate aromas of white peach, citrus and cedary oak. The palate is focused and taut with silky texture and well-balanced acidity, leading to a lingering creamy finish. The wine shows attractive rounded mouthfeel and juicy flavours. At its best: now to 2017. \$27.50. Limited availability. www.gibbstonhighgate.co.nz. March 2014.
Goldwater	Wairau Valley Chardonnay 2012	Marlborough	90	4.5 Stars	A silky-smooth chardonnay displaying lifted aromas of peach, mango, citrus and vanillin oak. The palate is succulent and supple with creamy texture and lovely fruit intensity. It's long and satisfying. At its best: now to 2016. \$22.00. Limited availability. 14%. Screw cap. www.goldwaterwine.com. May 2013.
Greywacke	Chardonnay 2011	Marlborough	94	5 Stars	Following on from the magnificent 2010 wine, this latest offering is another beauty. Richly complex and richly rewarding, this engaging chardonnay shows wonderful aromas of stone fruit, citrus, brioche and subtle vanillin oak, which lead to a concentrated palate that's filled with gorgeous flavours. It's weighty, expansive and silky, and finishes superbly long and harmonious. At its best: now to 2020. \$42.00. Moderate availability. www.greywacke.com. Nov 2013.
	Chardonnay 2010	Marlborough	95	5 Stars	Following the outrageously good 2009 offering, this is another glorious, multi-layered chardonnay. The complex bouquet shows oatmeal, stone fruit, almond and subtle spicy oak characters. It's concentrated and richly textured on the palate with an expansive mouthfeel leading to an impressively long, silky finish. The wine is powerful and intense, yet elegant and poised at the same time. Quite stunning. At its best: now to 2020. \$42.00. Limited availability. 14.5%. Screw cap. July 2013.
Gunn Estate	Reserve Chardonnay 2013	Hawke's Bay	91	4.5 Stars	A stylish chardonnay, the elegant and complex bouquet shows ripe citrus and white peach with beautifully infused vanillin oak characters. The palate is focused and finely textured with excellent mid palate weight, leading to a superbly long, expansive finish. Very promising. At its best: now to 2018. \$19.00. www.gunnestate.co.nz. March 2014.
Highfield	Chardonnay 2012	Marlborough	91	4.5 Stars	A lovely creamy chardonnay, the inviting bouquet shows stone fruit, citrus and vanillin oak aromas, leading to a succulent palate that's beautifully weighted and textured. It's rounded and silky on the palate, and finishes pleasingly dry. At its best: now to 2016. \$33.00. Limited availability. Oct 2013.
Huia	Chardonnay 2009	Marlborough	94	5 Stars	Known for their wonderful aromatic wines, Claire and Mike Allen also produce charming, complex chardonnays (and pinot noirs). This beautifully maturing wine shows fragrant aromas of stone fruit, roasted almond, oatmeal and a hint of flint. The palate is concentrated and textured with outstanding focus and finishes expansive and supremely long. It's elegant and powerful at the same time, and gloriously well drinking now. At its best: now to 2015. \$36.00. Moderate availability. Oct 2013.
Isabel	Chardonnay 2010	Marlborough	88	4 Stars	A lovely complex chardonnay with mature complexity, the lifted bouquet shows yellow peach, golden apple and nutty oak aromas. It's ripe and weighty on the palate with lovely fruit richness and texture, leading to a lingering expansive finish. At its best: now to 2016. \$30.00. Moderate availability. Dec 2013.
Julicher Estate	Chardonnay 2011	Martinborough	90	4.5 Stars	A generous and flavoursome chardonnay, the lifted bouquet shows stone fruit, citrus and gently infused vanillin oak aromas. It's concentrated and richly textured on the palate with excellent intensity, backed by beautifully pitched acidity. The wine is impressively long and expansive. At its best: now to 2016. Oct 2013.

Kakapo	Barrel Fermented Chardonnay 2012 A richly flavoured chardonnay, the gorgeous bouquet shows cream, peach, mango and vanilla aromas. The palate is full and silky with excellent mid palate weight, leading to a long and sumptuous finish. This is a great one for those who lovely generous chardonnays. At its best: now to 2017. \$24.00. Moderate availability. Oct 2013.	Marlborough	91	4.5 Stars
Karikari Estate	Wild Chardonnay 2010 This is an intriguing chardonnay with graceful power and savoury flavours, backed by plenty of gorgeous ripe fruit flavours. The bouquet shows tropical fruit, peach, beeswax, golden apple and vanillin oak characters, followed by a concentrated and richly textured palate. The finish is succulent and silky smooth. At its best: now to 2016. \$40.00. Limited availability. 13.5% Diam cork. May 2012.	Northland	93	5 Stars
	Chardonnay 2009 A sumptuous chardonnay, the bouquet is opulent and complex with yellow peach, tropical fruit, roasted nut and vanillin oak characters. The palate is powerful and broad with creamy texture and a long, expansive finish. Very impressive. At its best: now to 2014. \$32.50. Moderate availability. 13.5% Screw cap. www.karikariestate.co.nz. May 2012.	Northland	88	4 Stars
Kina Beach	Reserve Chardonnay 2011 This is a beautifully rich chardonnay filled with yellow peach, mango, mandarin and vanillin oak characters. The palate is concentrated and velvety with creamy texture and plenty of gorgeous flavours. Brilliantly expressed, the wine is sumptuous and delicious, and offers great drinking. At its best: now to 2017. www.kinabeach.co.nz.	Nelson	93	5 Stars
Kumeu River	Estate Chardonnay 2011 Complex and stylish, the attractive bouquet shows stone fruit and brioche with hints of cream and roasted nut characters. It's elegant and persistent on the palate with an expansive mouthfeel, backed by silky texture and beautifully balanced acidity. Unmistakably Kumeu River. At its best: now to 2020. \$30.00. Nov 2013.	Kumeu	93	5 Stars
	Estate Chardonnay 2007 This is fabulous drinking. Yellow fruits, roasted nuts and oatmeal, together with a full, richly textured palate. It's flowing and delicious with beautifully harmonised acidity. At its best: now to 2016. \$45.00. Nov 2013.	Kumeu	94	5 Stars
	Hunting Hill Chardonnay 2011 Finer, racier and linear, yet not short on concentration and power. The Burgundy-like bouquet shows white peach, citrus, flint and subtle vanilla aromas, followed by a taut palate that's beautifully weighted and structured. It's extremely long on the finish. At its best: now to 2024. \$50.00. Nov 2013.	Kumeu	95	5 Stars
	Hunting Hill Chardonnay 2007 An outstanding chardonnay. Lovely purity on the nose - white peach, cream, almond and a touch of flint. Lovely freshness still. It's focused and tightly structured, yet richly textured, leading to an extremely long, stylish finish. At its best: now to 2019. Nov 2013.	Kumeu	96	5 Stars
	Coddington Chardonnay 2011 This is immensely appealing on the nose, displaying yellow peach and ripe citrus with subtle vanilla and cedar notes. The palate is rich and round with excellent mid palate weight and texture, beautifully supported by bright acidity. The wine is generously expressed within a firm frame. At its best: now to 2022. \$45.00. Nov 2013.	Kumeu	95	5 Stars
	Coddington Chardonnay 2007 Beautifully complex with apricot, cashew and a hint of beeswax. Little savoury too. The palate is concentrated and weighty, showing excellent richness and generosity. Impressively long and attractive. At its best: now to 2018. \$80.00. Nov 2013.	Kumeu	95	5 Stars
	Mate's Vineyard Chardonnay 2011 A complete chardonnay as always, this youthful beauty shows complex aromas of ripe stone fruit, citrus and oatmeal with a touch of flinty notes. The palate is concentrated and expansive, and generous and richly textured, leading to an opulent finish. A top-notch chardonnay with a commanding presence. At its best: now to 2024. \$70.00. Nov 2013.	Kumeu	96	5 Stars
	Mate's Vineyard Chardonnay 2007 Sumptuous and engaging, this is undeniably awesome. Wonderfully ripe and complex on the nose exhibiting ripe fruits and nutty, savoury aromas, followed by a powerful palate that's substantial and seamless. Lovely harmony and opulence. At its best: now to 2019. \$100.00. Nov 2013.	Kumeu	96	5 Stars

Kumeu Village	Chardonnay 2011	Kumeu	90	4.5 Stars	This delightful label continues to deliver excellent quality and outstanding value. This latest offering shows delicately fragrant aromas of white peach, floral and almond on the nose, leading to a ripe and finely textured palate that's beautifully balanced by refreshing acidity. At its best: now to 2016. \$18.00. Nov 2013.
	Chardonnay 2010	Auckland	91	4.5 Stars	This latest offering is surely the best wine made under this label. The refinement we expect to see in Kumeu River chardonnays is reflected in this well-priced, delightful chardonnay. The elegant bouquet shows white peach, citrus, floral and oatmeal characters. It's pristine and focused on the palate with creamy texture and bright acidity, leading to a long, fine finish. At its best: now to 2015. \$20.00. Widely available. 13.5%. Screw cap. June 2013.
Locharburn	Chardonnay 2011	Central Otago	88	4 Stars	A beautifully styled chardonnay displaying white peach and citrus with hints of almond and vanilla aromas. The palate is ripe and elegantly framed with creamy texture and bright acidity. Long and very fine. At its best: now to 2017. \$29.00. Limited availability. Screw cap. Sept 2013.
Mahi	Twin Valleys Vineyard Chardonnay 2011	Marlborough	94	5 Stars	Beautifully complex, multi-layered and engaging, this is a though-provoking chardonnay filled with stone fruit, citrus, brioche, almond and a hint of flinty characters. It's concentrated on the palate with excellent mid palate weight and acidity, providing firm structure. Grapes were sourced from a small, stony vineyard owned by Pete and Anne Reed, at the western end of the Wairau Valley. At its best: now to 2020. \$39.00. 13.5%. Screw cap. Sept 2013.
	Chardonnay 2012	Marlborough	91	4.5 Stars	It's fine and elegant yet concentrated and persistent, displaying white peach, grapefruit, oatmeal and a hint of vanillin oak aromas. The palate is focused and finely textured with a superbly long finish. Very stylish. The grapes were hand picked, whole-bunch pressed and fermented in French oak barriques using indigenous yeasts. At its best: now to 2018. \$29.00. 13.5%. www.mahiwine.co.nz. Sept 2013.
Mahurangi River	Field of Grace Chardonnay 2012	Matakana	93	5 Stars	Youthful yet full of complex aromas - stone fruit, citrus, vanilla and butterscotch. The palate is concentrated and richly textured with a flowing mouthfeel, beautifully supported by bright acidity. The wine is powerful and graceful at the same time. At its best: now to 2018. \$39.00. Oct 2013.
	Field of Grace Chardonnay 2011	Matakana	90	4.5 Stars	The attractive bouquet shows lifted aromas of yellow peach, citrus, roasted nut and subtle vanilla. It's rounded and smooth on the palate with lovely fruit weight, backed by beautifully integrated acidity. It's long and sumptuous. At its best: now to 2016. \$39.00. Oct 2013.
Main Divide	Chardonnay 2011	Waipara Valley	90	4.5 Stars	It's engaging on the nose displaying ripe citrus, peach and flinty aromas with a hint of oatmeal notes. The palate is powerful and intense while remaining elegant and focused with rich texture, leading to a fabulous long finish. Love the savoury complexity. At its best: now to 2016. \$20.00. Widely available. Dec 2013.
Mark Rattray	Le Chardonnay Gimblett Gravels 2010	Hawke's Bay	93	5 Stars	It's immediately appealing on the nose with yellow peach, tropical fruit, ripe citrus and vanillin oak characters. The palate is full, richly textured and silky-smooth, and beautifully framed by bright acidity. From the Gimblett Gravels district, this gorgeous chardonnay should evolve to show greater richness and complexity. At its best: now to 2016. \$24.00. Moderate availability. 13.3%. Screw cap. www.markrattray.co.nz. June 2013.
	Le Chardonnay 2011	Hawke's Bay	93	5 Stars	A stylish chardonnay displaying complex aromas of white peach, almond, brioche and vanillin oak. The palate is generously flavoured with excellent mid palate weight and texture, leading to a sumptuous finish. The wine shows wonderful concentration together with a multi-layered mouthfeel. At its best: now to 2017. \$23.00. 13%. Screw cap. www.markrattray.co.nz. Aug 2013.
Matahiwi Estate	Chardonnay 2013	Hawke's Bay	91	4.5 Stars	Rich and generous, the opulent bouquet shows yellow peach, mango, citrus and vanillin oak characters. It's powerful and expansive on the palate with attractive fruit weight and creamy texture. The wine is flavoursome and immensely appealing. At its best: now to 2017. \$20.00. Moderate availability. www.matahiwi.co.nz. March 2014.
Matawhero	Church House Barrel Fermented Chardonnay 2012	Gisborne	90	4.5 Stars	A generously expressed chardonnay, the complex bouquet shows lifted aromas of yellow peach, mango and vanillin oak. It's full and expansive on the palate with creamy texture, leading to a sumptuous finish. The wine combines lovely fruit ripeness with layered oak complexity. At its best: now to 2016. \$28.00. Nov 2013.

Mills Reef	Reserve Chardonnay 2012 This label has a strong following among chardonnay fans who love rich flavours. Indeed, this is a full-bodied chardonnay offering plenty of ripe stone fruit, citrus and vanillin oak characters with silky texture, beautifully framed by integrated acidity. At its best: now to 2016. \$25.00. Oct 2013.	Hawke's Bay	90	4.5 Stars
Millton	Estate Chardonnay 2013 It's beautifully aromatic on the nose displaying yellow peach, mango, mandarin and a hint of floral complexity. The palate is succulent and rounded with velvety texture and excellent mid palate weight, finishing expansive and silky. The wine contains 10% viognier and 4% marsanne. At its best: now to 2018. \$20.00. Moderate availability. Certified organic. www.millton.co.nz. March 2014.	Gisborne	90	4.5 Stars
	Clos de Ste. Anne Naboth's Chardonnay 2010 One of the iconic wine labels, Millton Vineyard's Clos de Ste. Anne wines are striking and full of intriguing characters. This 2010 Chardonnay is an exceptional wine, and for the first time, part of the wine went through malolactic fermentation. The nose is youthful and pure, yet profoundly complex, displaying white peach, oatmeal and citrus characters with hints of vanilla and cream on the nose. The palate is superbly concentrated and richly textured with an expansive mouthfeel and beautifully pitched acidity. The wine is generous and discreetly powerful, while remaining elegantly poised and structured. Very promising. At its best: 2013 to 2020. \$70.00. 13.5%. Natural cork. Apr 2012.	Gisborne	96	5 Stars
Mission Estate	Vineyard Selection Chardonnay 2012 The gorgeous bouquet shows yellow peach, citrus, cedar and vanilla characters, leading to a richly flavoured palate filled with creamy texture and lovely fruit intensity. The wine is silky, rounded and expansive, backed by beautifully integrated acidity. At its best: now to 2017. \$24.00. Moderate availability. Oct 2013.	Hawke's Bay	93	5 Stars
Misty Cove	Signature Chardonnay 2013 A flavoursome barrel-fermented chardonnay, fragrant bouquet shows apricot, mango, citrus and subtle vanillin oak characters. The palate is ripe and rounded with lovely fruit intensity, backed by well integrated acidity. It's immensely appealing. At its best: now to 2017. \$30.00. April 2014.	Marlborough	90	4.5 Stars
Moana Park	Chardonnay 2012 A rich creamy style, the opulent bouquet shows mango, yellow peach, vanilla and butterscotch aromas. It's full bodied and full flavoured with lovely richness and silky texture. A sumptuous wine for those who love generosity in their chardonnay. At its best: now to 2016. 14.5%. Screw cap. Aug 2013.	Hawke's Bay	87	4 Stars
Monowai	Chardonnay 2013 It's delightful and inviting on the nose displaying ripe peach, rock melon and subtle vanilla characters. The palate is ripe and flavoursome with lovely fruit intensity and silky texture leading to a lingering creamy finish. Well balanced and charmingly delicious on the palate. At its best: now to 2017. \$20.00. Moderate availability. www.monowai.co.nz. March 2014.	Hawke's Bay	87	4 Stars
Morton Estate	Three Vineyards Chardonnay 2012 A full-flavoured chardonnay, the fragrant bouquet shows ripe peach, citrus and nutty characters. It's succulent and nicely weighted on the palate with lovely fruit intensity, backed by beautifully integrated acidity. At its best: now to 2016. \$19.00. Widely available. www.mortonestatewines.co.nz. Oct 2013.	Hawke's Bay	86	4 Stars
	Private Reserve Chardonnay 2012 It's beautifully expressed on the nose showing stone fruit, citrus and subtle creamy characters. The palate is ripe and textured with a flowing mouthfeel, finishing elegantly dry. A well-proportioned chardonnay showing lovely generosity. At its best: now to 2016. \$20.00. Widely available. Oct 2013.	Hawke's Bay	86	4 Stars
Mount Riley	Chardonnay 2013 Youthful and immediately appealing, the fragrant bouquet shows peach, cream, vanilla and roasted almond characters. It's smooth and rounded on the palate with silky texture and a long succulent finish. The wine shows generosity and excellent balance. Very appealing. At its best: now to 2017. www.mountriley.co.nz. Oct 2013.	Marlborough	90	4.5 Stars
Mt. Difficulty	Growers Series Lowburn Chardonnay 2011 A beautifully expressed chardonnay, the complex bouquet shows ripe citrus and peach with hints of vanilla and oatmeal. It's focused and elegantly weighted on the palate with silky texture, backed by perfectly integrated acidity. It's well structured and refreshingly dry. At its best: now to 2017. \$39.00. Moderate availability. Dec 2013.	Central Otago	93	5 Stars
	Chardonnay 2009 A stylish chardonnay showing some maturity, the lifted bouquet shows peach, oatmeal, citrus and a hint of dill aromas, followed by a richly textured palate. It's lengthy and expansive, backed by fine acidity. At its best: now to 2015. Nov 2013.	Central Otago	90	4.5 Stars

Mud House	Single Vineyard 'Hungry Hill' Chardonnay 2012	Marlborough	90	4.5 Stars	It's beautifully elegant and complex on the nose displaying white peach and grapefruit with hints of spice and nutty characters. The palate is focused and finely textured with bright acidity and vibrancy. Long and linear with plenty of appealing flavours. At its best: now to 2017. \$27.00. Oct 2013.
	Chardonnay 2012	Marlborough	86	4 Stars	The wine shows inviting aromas of white peach, citrus and apple on the nose, followed by a nicely rounded palate filled with elegant fruit flavours. Well proportioned, it's very approachable and pleasingly dry. At its best: now to 2016. \$22.00. Widely available. www.mudhousewines.co.nz. Oct 2013.
Neudorf	Moutere Chardonnay 2011	Nelson	97	5 Stars	Once again this iconic chardonnay label delivers with profound style and complexity, displaying stone fruit, citrus, roasted cashew and hints of vanilla and flint on the nose. The palate is intense yet restrained and focused with rich texture and beautifully infused acidity, leading to an exceptionally long finish. A multi-layered and gratifying chardonnay that will just get better with time. At its best: 2014 to 2022. \$58.00. Moderate availability. 14% Screw cap. Oct 2012.
	Nelson Chardonnay 2011	Nelson	94	5 Stars	It's youthful yet complex on the nose with white peach, oatmeal, citrus and subtle vanillin oak characters. The palate is concentrated and beautifully ripe, showing outstanding mid palate weight and texture, finishing long and expansive. This youthful wine is irresistible already, combining fruit power with elegant complexity. At its best: 2013 to 2018. \$30.00. Widely available. 14% Screw cap. www.neudorf.co.nz. Oct 2012.
Obsidian	Reserve Chardonnay 2012	Waiheke Island	93	5 Stars	This is sumptuous and powerful while remaining beautifully balanced and poised. The complex bouquet shows stone fruit, citrus, vanilla and roasted almond aromas, followed by a lush palate that's filled with delicious flavours. It's rich and smooth, and beautifully structured by well-integrated acidity. At its best: now to 2018. Nov 2013.
Odyssey	Chardonnay 2013	Gisborne	88	4 Stars	A beautifully expressed chardonnay, the fragrant bouquet shows yellow peach, citrus, rock melon and subtle nutty aromas. It's succulent and rounded on the palate with excellent weight and texture, leading to a lingering smooth finish. Well balanced and very friendly. At its best: now to 2017. Nov 2013.
	Reserve Iliad Chardonnay 2012	Gisborne	93	5 Stars	This label delivers another stylish beauty. It's beautifully ripe and creamy on the nose showing yellow peach, tropical fruit, vanilla and oatmeal characters. The palate is lush and rounded with rich texture and a fabulous long finish. Generous and sumptuous, this is highly enjoyable. At its best: now to 2017. \$37.00. 13.75%. Diam cork. www.odysseywines.co.nz. July 2013.
Old Coach Road	Chardonnay 2013	Nelson	87	4 Stars	An immediately appealing chardonnay, this is filled with ripe peach, citrus, almond and creamy characters. The palate is succulent and smooth, backed by refreshing acidity leading to a lingering silky finish. A highly enjoyable medium-bodied chardonnay. At its best: now to 2016. \$11.00 - \$15.00. Widely available. www.oldcoachroad.com. Feb 2014.
Omihi Hills	"Limestone Ridge" Chardonnay 2012	Waipara Valley	93	5 Stars	Complex and multi-layered, this is an engaging chardonnay filled with stone fruit, mango, citrus and roasted nut aromas. The palate is full and richly textured with beautifully integrated acidity, leading to a lingering silky finish. At its best: now to 2017. \$19.00. Nov 2013.
Osawa	Prestige Collection Chardonnay 2012	Hawke's Bay	94	5 Stars	This is a sumptuous chardonnay showing impressive power and generosity. The beautifully fragrant bouquet displays white peach, tropical fruit, cedar and vanilla characters. It's full and weighty on the palate with superb fruit intensity and creamy texture, leading to a long and expansive finish. Rich, complex and harmonious, the wine was fermented in French oak barriques using indigenous yeasts, followed by an extended lees maturing with regular stirring. At its best: now to 2018. \$40.00. 14%. Natural cork. www.osawawines.co.nz. July 2013.
Paddy Borthwick	Chardonnay 2011	Wairarapa	91	4.5 Stars	A lovely sumptuous chardonnay showing lifted aromas of yellow peach, mango, citrus and subtle vanillin oak. It's succulent and beautifully weighted on the palate with creamy texture and well-pitched acidity. Everything is well proportioned. It's long, silky and highly satisfying. At its best: now to 2015. \$25.00. Limited availability. 13.5% Screw cap. Jan 2013.
	Paper Road Chardonnay 2012	Wairarapa	90	4.5 Stars	Youthful and beautifully fragrant, the inviting bouquet shows ripe peach, citrus, vanilla and a hint of creamy notes. It's generous and rounded on the palate with excellent mid palate weight, finishing long and refreshing. Well balanced and full of delicious flavours. At its best: now to 2016. \$22.00. Moderate availability. Screw cap. www.borthwick.co.nz. April 2013.

Palliser Estate	Chardonnay 2013	Martinborough	93	5 Stars	This is stylish and immensely appealing on the nose displaying nectarine, rock melon, brioche and elegantly infused vanillin oak characters. The palate is also delightful with excellent concentration and focus, followed by a lingering expansive finish. Wonderful fruit purity beautifully enhanced by delicate complexity. At its best: now to 2019. www.palliser.co.nz. March 2014.
	Chardonnay 2012	Martinborough	93	5 Stars	It's elegant and complex on the nose displaying stone fruit, brioche, roasted almond and subtle vanilla aromas. The palate is concentrated and linear, backed by creamy texture and beautifully integrated acidity. Long and seamless. A beautifully poised chardonnay showing excellent potential for development. At its best: now to 2020. \$39.00. Oct 2013.
Pegasus Bay	Chardonnay 2010	Waipara Valley	94	5 Stars	The bouquet is impressively complex, exhibiting apricot, ripe citrus, roasted almond and flinty aromas. It's concentrated and intensely flavoured on the palate with superb mid palate weight and texture, beautifully supported by bright acidity. The finish is extremely long and thought provoking. True to Pegasus Bay style. At its best: now to 2020. \$36.00. Dec 2013.
	Virtuoso Chardonnay 2010	Waipara Valley	96	5 Stars	A wine of commanding presence, the complex bouquet shows peach, mango, grapefruit and nutty oak aromas with subtle flinty notes. It's undeniably powerful on the palate yet perfectly balanced and harmonious. This formidable chardonnay is multi-layered and sophisticated. At its best: now to 2022. \$49.00. Widely available. Dec 2013.
	Virtuoso Chardonnay 2009	Waipara Valley	96	5 Stars	One of the great chardonnay labels, Pegasus Bay have delivered an exceptional wine from the 2009 vintage. It's gorgeously complex on the nose displaying stone fruit, oatmeal, cashew, vanilla and subtle savoury notes. The palate is superbly concentrated and focused with rich texture, finishing extremely long and expansive. Matured for three years before release - one year in barrel on lees, one in tank on light lees and one in bottle. Based on previous vintages of Virtuoso, this stunning beauty will develop graciously. At its best: now to 2022. \$49.00. Limited availability. 13.5% Screw cap. www.pegasusbay.com. May 2012.
	Virtuoso Chardonnay 2008	Waipara Valley	94	5 Stars	This label has always been a characterful, intriguing Chardonnay. And this 2008 is impressively complex on the nose displaying flint, stone fruit, roasted nut and savoury characters. The palate is concentrated and weighty with rich texture and bright acidity, finishing long and expansive. It's sumptuous yet firmly structured. Wait till it is a few years older - it will show greater satisfaction. At its best: 2013 to 2018. \$49.00. Limited availability. 13.5% Screw cap. Nov 2011.
Pencarrow	Chardonnay 2013	Martinborough	91	4.5 Stars	The gorgeous bouquet is filled with stone fruit, mango, citrus and vanillin oak characters. It's succulent and generous on the palate showing excellent intensity, backed by creamy texture and well-integrated acidity. The wine is immediately approachable and highly enjoyable. At its best: now to 2017. www.palliser.co.nz. March 2014.
	Chardonnay 2012	Martinborough	90	4.5 Stars	Generous and opulent, the bouquet shows yellow peach, mango, citrus and creamy oak characters. It's juicy and lively on the palate, beautifully framed by silky texture and well integrated acidity. A smooth, flavoursome chardonnay. At its best: now to 2016. \$21.00. 12.5% Screw cap. Feb 2013.
Peter Yealands	Chardonnay 2013	Hawke's Bay	86	4 Stars	Friendly and lively, the inviting bouquet shows peach, citrus and floral aromas, followed by a ripe and rounded palate that's shows lovely fruit intensity, backed by nicely integrated acidity. Smooth and lingering. At its best: now to 2016. \$19.00. Widely available. www.yealandsestate.co.nz. Nov 2013.
	Chardonnay 2012	Hawke's Bay	86	4 Stars	A likable chardonnay, the lifted bouquet shows yellow peach, tropical fruit and citrus with subtle vanilla notes. The palate is ripe and smooth with lovely fruit weight, beautifully balanced by refreshing acidity. An appealing medium-bodied chardonnay, this is very easy on the palate. At its best: now to 2016. 13.5%. Screw cap. www.yealandsestate.co.nz. July 2013.
Quarter Acre	Chardonnay 2012	Hawke's Bay	93	5 Stars	A beautifully styled chardonnay, the complex bouquet shows apricot, rock melon, brioche and subtle vanilla characters. It's concentrated and succulent on the palate with excellent fruit weight and creamy texture, leading to a lingering expansive finish. The wine shows wonderful balance and poise with plenty of attractive flavours. At its best: now to 2017. \$32.00. Widely available. www.rmwwines.co.nz. March 2014.
Rapaura Springs	Chardonnay 2009	Marlborough	90	4.5 Stars	This is a beautifully drinking chardonnay with plush fruit flavours and lovely maturity. The complex bouquet shows apricot, rockmelon, almond and vanilla, followed by a succulent palate that's silky and rounded. It's well balanced and harmonious with plenty of appealing flavours. At its best: now to 2015. \$19.00. Moderate availability. www.rapaurasprings.co.nz. April 2014.

Rimu Grove	Chardonnay 2012	Nelson	94	5 Stars	It's gloriously complex and inviting on the nose, showing yellow peach, roasted almond, cream and vanilla aromas, leading to a sumptuous palate that's filled with rich texture and delicious flavours. It's concentrated and expressive, and fabulously long on the finish. At its best: now to 2018. \$42.00. Limited availability. Oct 2013.
	Chardonnay 2010	Nelson	94	5 Stars	I have always admired the richness and power of Rimu Grove Chardonnay by Patrick Stowe, and this latest offering is singing beautiful notes again. Grapes were grown on the estate vineyard, and the wine was fermented in French oak barriques then matured on full lees for 11 months in barrels. It's beautifully fragrant on the nose displaying yellow peach, cream, roasted cashew and butterscotch characters. The palate is full, expansive and richly textured with superb fruit concentration and beautifully infused acidity, providing an impressive lengthy finish. At its best: now to 2016. \$35.00. Limited availability. 13.5% Screw cap. www.rimugrove.co.nz. Nov 2011.
Riverby Estate	Chardonnay 2011	Marlborough	94	5 Stars	A real charmer, the fragrant bouquet shows peach, mango, oatmeal and vanillin oak characters. It's beautifully ripe and textured on the palate with excellent weight and a lengthy, creamy finish. The wine is generous and sumptuous while remaining elegant and beautifully poised. Made from 23-year-old vines, the wine was fermented and matured in oak barrels (25% new) for 12 months. At its best: now to 2018. \$27.00. 14%. Screw cap. www.riverbyestate.com. May 2013.
	Chardonnay 2010	Marlborough	91	4.5 Stars	It's gentle and refined on the nose, displaying white peach and citrus with hints of oatmeal and vanilla notes. The palate is focused and finely textured showing excellent mid palate weight and lengthy, crisp finish. Beautifully poised for further development. At its best: 2013 to 2017. \$25.00. 13.5% Screw cap. July 2012.
Rock Ferry	Chardonnay 2010	Marlborough	91	4.5 Stars	The wine is elegant and refined, and shows discreet power and excellent persistency. The complex bouquet shows stone fruit, almond, brioche and a hint of vanilla characters. It's beautifully weighted and focused on the palate with creamy texture. The finish is succulent and expansive. Very stylish. At its best: now to 2017. \$35.00. 14.5%. Screw cap. Certified organic. Sept 2013.
	Cawtes Cave Chardonnay 2013	Marlborough	91	4.5 Stars	A lovely flavoursome chardonnay, the bouquet shows yellow peach, citrus, almond and a hint of vanilla complexity. It's ripe and succulent on the palate with excellent mid palate weight and creamy texture, beautifully framed by refreshing acidity. The wine is expressive while remaining elegant and poised. At its best: now to 2017. April 2014.
Sacred Hill	Halo Chardonnay 2012	Hawke's Bay	93	5 Stars	An immediately appealing chardonnay, the opulent nose displays yellow peach, mango and vanillin oak characters. The palate is powerful and generous with superb weight and creamy texture. A beautifully rounded and silky chardonnay filled with delicious flavours. At its best: now to 2016. \$28.00. 13.5%. Screw cap. June 2013.
	Orange Label Chardonnay 2013	Hawke's Bay	88	4 Stars	An immensely approachable wine by one of the country's best chardonnay winemakers, this is fruit expressive showing peach and rock melon flavours with subtle vanillin oak complexity. The palate is nicely weighted and textured, leading to a lingering silky finish. At its best: now to 2016. \$20.00. March 2014.
Seifried	Winemakers Collection Barrique Fermented Chardonnay 2013	Nelson	94	5 Stars	This is sumptuous and irresistible, exhibiting complex aromas of stone fruit, mango, rock melon and vanillin oak. The palate is concentrated and velvety with superb mid palate weight and texture, leading to an impressively long expansive finish. This will only get better with time. At its best: now to 2019. \$25.00 - \$33.00. Limited availability. Feb 2014.
	Winemakers Collection Barrique Fermented Chardonnay 2012	Nelson	93	5 Stars	Complex and engaging, the bouquet shows fragrant aromas of tropical fruit, peach, citrus and vanillin oak. It's powerful and richly textured on the palate with excellent fruit weight, leading to an impressively long, creamy finish. Generous and expansive, the wine also shows lovely harmony and structure. At its best: now to 2017. \$33.00. Moderate availability. 14%. Screw cap. www.seifried.co.nz. July 2013.
	Chardonnay 2013	Nelson	91	4.5 Stars	It's beautifully lifted on the nose displaying yellow peach, ripe citrus, vanilla and toasty oak characters, followed by a succulent palate that's full and delicious. The wine shows wonderful fruit richness together with lovely vibrancy. At its best: now to 2017. \$14.00 - \$18.00. Moderate availability. www.seifried.co.nz. Feb 2014.

Selaks	Reserve Chardonnay 2012 This is opulent yet stylish and refined. It's beautifully fragrant on the nose displaying complex aromas of stone fruit, ripe citrus, cedar and cream, followed by a concentrated palate that's richly textured and well structured. Long and delicious. At its best: now to 2016. \$23.00. Widely available. Nov 2013.	Hawke's Bay	93	5 Stars
Shaky Bridge	Pioneer Series Chardonnay 2012 A beautifully rounded chardonnay, the fragrant bouquet shows stone fruit, citrus and creamy characters with subtle vanillin oak complexity. It's succulent and generous on the palate with lovely fruit intensity, leading to a lingering silky finish. At its best: now to 2016. \$20.00. www.shakybridge.co.nz. Dec 2013.	Central Otago	87	4 Stars
Sileni	Exceptional Vintage Chardonnay 2010 A sumptuous and richly flavoured Chardonnay exhibiting mango, pineapple and roasted cashew with gently pitched toasty oak characters. The palate is concentrated and powerfully flavoured with creamy texture and an impressively long finish. An intense expression of the variety yet shows superb balance and poise for further development. At its best: now to 2016. \$70.00. Moderate availability. 14% Screw cap. www.sileni.co.nz. Nov 2011.	Hawke's Bay	95	5 Stars
	Exceptional Vintage Chardonnay 2007 A wine of significant presence, the gloriously complex bouquet shows roasted nut, oatmeal, vanilla and ripe stone fruit aromas, leading to a rich and powerful palate that's concentrated and textured, beautifully supported by perfectly integrated acidity. The wine is extremely long on the finish with layers of delicious flavours. At its best: now to 2017. \$70.00. Nov 2013.	Hawke's Bay	95	5 Stars
	Cellar Selection Chardonnay 2013 A lovely elegant rendition of the variety displaying youthful aromas of white peach, citrus and subtle roasted nuts on the nose, followed by a juicy palate that's refreshing and vibrant. The wine shows good balance and harmony, and very friendly on the palate. A lovely drink. At its best: now to 2016. \$20.00. Oct 2013.	Hawke's Bay	86	4 Stars
Soho	Carter Chardonnay 2013 A stunning chardonnay, the beautifully lifted bouquet shows yellow peach, mango, vanilla and cedar characters, leading to a sumptuous palate that's packed with fruit richness and silky texture. The wine is impressive, generous and creamy to the finish. At its best: now to 2018. \$38.00. www.sohowineco.com. March 2014.	Waiheke Island	94	5 Stars
	Carter Chardonnay 2012 It's complex and beautifully lifted on the nose displaying white peach, mango, vanilla and oatmeal characters. The palate is concentrated and richly textured with bright acidity, leading to a superbly long, expansive finish. A stylish chardonnay showing potential to develop magnificently. At its best: now to 2018. \$38.00. 13.8%. Screw cap. www.sohowine.com. July 2013.	Waiheke Island	94	5 Stars
Spinyback	Chardonnay 2013 This is packed with attractive flavours - peach, tropical fruit, citrus - with elegant toasty oak complexity. The palate is ripe and silky, and generous and smooth to the finish. A delightful chardonnay offering excellent fruit intensity, beautifully supported by creamy texture. At its best: now to 2017. Jan 2014.	Nelson	90	4.5 Stars
Squawking Magpie	Gimblett Gravels Chardonnay 2011 It's finely expressed on the nose displaying white peach, citrus and subtle vanillin oak characters. The palate is focused and linear with excellent mid palate weight and texture, leading to a lengthy finish. The wine is harmonious and delicately structured, promising it will develop greater complexity with time. At its best: now to 2016. \$34.00. Moderate availability. Screw cap. www.squawkingmagpie.co.nz. July 2013.	Hawke's Bay	90	4.5 Stars
	The Charmer Chardonnay 2012 This is a friendly chardonnay with lovely fruit expression. It's beautifully ripe and fragrant on the nose showing yellow peach, mango and subtle vanilla characters. The palate is succulent and rounded with creamy texture and a lengthy smooth finish. At its best: now to 2016. \$27.00. Moderate availability. Screw cap. www.squawkingmagpie.co.nz. July 2013.	Hawke's Bay	88	4 Stars
Staete Landt	"Josephine" Estate Chardonnay 2010 It's textural, complex and harmonious, displaying lovely aromas of yellow peach, ripe citrus, vanilla and brioche. The palate shows outstanding focus and generosity within a frame of rich texture and integrated acidity. Superbly long. At its best: now to 2018. \$29.00. Widely available. Nov 2013.	Marlborough	94	5 Stars
Sunset Valley Vineyard	Reserve Chardonnay 2013 A richly flavoured barrel-fermented chardonnay, the intensely aromatic bouquet shows yellow peach, tropical fruit, cream and vanillin oak characters. It's powerful and weighty on the palate with velvety texture and gentle acidity. The wine offers plenty of attractive flavours, and finishes long and sumptuous. At its best: now to 2017. \$25.00. Certified organic. May 2014.	Nelson	91	4.5 Stars

Te Awanga Estate	Chardonnay 2012 A beautifully proportioned chardonnay, the elegant bouquet shows complex aromas of white peach, citrus, almond and a hint of vanilla. It's focused and finely textured on the palate with superb structure and length. A stylish chardonnay showing discreet power and delicate poise. At its best: now to 2017. \$30.00. Nov 2013.	Hawke's Bay	91	4.5 Stars
Te Kairanga	Casarina Reserve Chardonnay 2012 It's wonderfully aromatic on the nose showing stone fruit, citrus, almond and subtle vanillin oak aromas. The palate is concentrated and richly textured with superb mid palate weight, leading to a sumptuous finish. The wine shows excellent acid structure, ensuring the wine remains fresh and vibrant. At its best: now to 2018. \$30.00. Limited availability. Oct 2013.	Martinborough	94	5 Stars
	Casarina Reserve Chardonnay 2011 The bouquet shows lovely complexity - peach, citrus, vanilla, subtle spice and cedar. It's succulent and focused on the palate with excellent intensity, backed by refreshing acidity. It's full and powerful, yet shows lovely elegance and poise. At its best: now to 2016. \$30.50. Widely available. 13.5% Screw cap. www.tekairanga.co.nz. April 2013.	Martinborough	91	4.5 Stars
	Estate Chardonnay 2011 A generously flavoured chardonnay, the complex bouquet shows yellow peach, tropical fruit and subtle cedary oak characters. It's ripe and smooth on the palate with excellent fruit intensity, finishing long and refreshing. Well balanced and highly enjoyable. At its best: now to 2015. \$20.50. Limited availability. 13.5%. Screw cap. www.tekairanga.co.nz. May 2013.	Martinborough	87	4 Stars
Te Mania	Chardonnay 2012 It's beautifully ripe and fragrant on the nose displaying yellow peach, citrus and elegantly infused vanillin oak aromas. The palate is succulent and nicely weighted with creamy texture, leading to a lingering smooth finish. A generously expressed chardonnay showing plenty of appeal. At its best: now to 2017. \$22.00. Moderate availability. 13.5%. Screw cap. Certified organic. www.temaniawines.co.nz. Sept 2013.	Nelson	90	4.5 Stars
	Reserve Chardonnay 2011 This youthful Chardonnay is offering plenty already with fragrant aromas of peach, mango, cream and vanillin oak. The palate is succulent and intensely flavoured with excellent weight and silky texture, leading to a long, crisp finish. A lovely engaging Chardonnay. At its best: now to 2016. \$28.00. Moderate availability. 13.5% Screw cap. Certified organic. www.temaniawines.co.nz. Apr 2012.	Nelson	91	4.5 Stars
Te Whare Ra	Chardonnay 2012 This is complex and generously flavoured while remaining elegant and stylish. Barrel fermented (in 600-litre barrels rather than the usual 225-litre barriques) characters of roasted nut and oatmeal are subtle and beautifully infused with ripe peach and citrus notes, backed by silky texture and fine acidity. A lovely elegant rendition. At its best: now to 2020. \$32.00. Nov 2013.	Marlborough	91	4.5 Stars
	Chardonnay 2011 Te Whare Ra are so famous for their exceptional aromatic varieties, it's easy to overlook the stylish Burgundy pair - chardonnay and pinot noir. This is elegantly complex on the nose displaying white peach, oatmeal, citrus and a hint of vanilla notes. The palate is concentrated and focused with silky texture and bright acidity. It's fine, persistent and very long on the finish, just needing time to evolve. At its best: 2013 to 2020. \$32.00. Screw cap. June 2012.	Marlborough	91-93	4.5 Stars
The People's	Chardonnay 2012 The wine shows lovely aromas of yellow peach, vanilla, almond and citrus on the nose. It's succulent and rounded with fruit richness, beautifully supported by silky texture and refreshing acidity. Long and flavoursome. At its best: now to 2016. \$22.00. Widely available. Nov 2013.	Hawke's Bay	90	4.5 Stars
Ti Point	Chardonnay 2011 Rich and fragrant, the opulent bouquet shows yellow peach, citrus, vanilla and subtle nutty characters. It's succulent and beautifully weighted on the palate with excellent intensity and well-pitched acidity. The wine is generous and flavoursome while remaining refreshing and elegantly structured. The wine was fermented French oak barriques, followed by malolactic fermentation and lees stirring. At its best: now to 2016. \$24.00. 13%. www.tipoint.co.nz. July 2013.	Hawke's Bay	90	4.5 Stars
Tony Bish	Fat n Sassy Chardonnay 2013 A delectably plush chardonnay, the beautifully lifted bouquet shows yellow peach, rockmelon, brioche, cedar and vanilla aromas, leading to a powerful palate that's richly flavoured and beautifully textured. The wine offers loads of delicious flavours, perfectly structured by integrated acidity. At its best: now to 2017. \$24.00. www.bishwines.co.nz. April 2014.	Hawke's Bay	93	5 Stars
Trinity Hill	Gimblett Gravels Chardonnay 2012 A finely expressed chardonnay showing inviting aromas of stone fruit, citrus and hints of vanilla and flint. The palate is ripe and bright with excellent mid palate weight, beautifully supported by crisp acidity. The wine shows lovely harmony and balance, and should evolve elegantly. At its best: now to 2017. \$35.00. Widely available. Oct 2013.	Hawke's Bay	90	4.5 Stars

Two Gates	Chardonnay 2012 This is stylish and engaging, and complex and fragrant displaying yellow peach, grapefruit, oatmeal and subtle vanilla aromas on the nose. The palate is ripe and beautifully weighted with excellent focus and fine texture, leading to a lovely creamy finish. It's elegant, persistent and highly enjoyable. At its best: now to 2017. \$35.00. 13.3%. Screw cap. www.rmwines.co.nz. July 2013.	Hawke's Bay	91	4.5 Stars
Two Rivers	'Clos des Pierres' Chardonnay 2012 This is stylish and gorgeous. The fragrant, complex bouquet shows stone fruit, citrus, oatmeal and subtle nutty oak characters. It's concentrated and succulent on the palate with excellent focus and silky texture, leading to a superbly long finish. A beautifully framed chardonnay showing lovely potential. At its best: now to 2018. \$35.00. Oct 2013.	Marlborough	94	5 Stars
Vavaour	Anna's Chardonnay 2011 Impressive, striking and dramatic, this opulent chardonnay is also refined and sensuous. The complex bouquet shows yellow peach, mango, vanilla and spicy oak aromas, followed by a concentrated palate that's multi-layered and beautifully lingering. It's powerful and seductive at the same time. At its best: now to 2018. \$41.00. Limited availability. Dec 2013.	Marlborough	94	5 Stars
	Awatere Chardonnay 2012 This is mouth-filling and delectable. The fragrant bouquet shows apricot, ripe apple, citrus and creamy oak aromas, leading to a rounded palate that's richly flavours and textured. It's very appealing and beautifully long on the finish. At its best: now to 2016. \$31.00. Moderate availability. Dec 2013.	Marlborough	93	5 Stars
Vidal	Reserve Series Chardonnay 2013 The wine shows wonderful aromas of apricot, mango, citrus and a hint of toasted almond. The palate is concentrated and focused with silky texture, leading to a superbly long finish. It's harmonious and flowing with plenty of gorgeous flavours, backed by elegant complexity. At its best: now to 2018. \$20.00. www.vidal.co.nz. April 2014.	Hawke's Bay	93	5 Stars
Villa Maria	Single Vineyard Taylors Pass Chardonnay 2010 A magnificent chardonnay, the complex and fragrant bouquet shows gorgeous aromas of stone fruit, citrus, roasted almond and vanilla, which lead to a concentrated palate that's focused and richly textured, beautifully framed by bright acidity. Seamless and superbly long. At its best: now to 2016. www.villamaria.co.nz. May 2014.	Marlborough	94	5 Stars
	Cellar Selection Chardonnay 2013 A beautifully styled chardonnay, the inviting bouquet shows white peach, rockmelon, brioche and subtle vanilla aromas. It's ripe and fleshy on the palate with excellent fruit weight, well supported by creamy texture and integrated acidity. Long, silky and very attractive. At its best: now to 2017. \$20.00. www.villamaria.co.nz. April 2014.	Hawke's Bay	91	4.5 Stars
Waimea Estate	Chardonnay 2013 It's gloriously ripe and complex on the nose displaying apricot, rock melon, vanilla and butterscotch aromas. The palate is concentrated and richly flavoured with excellent fruit intensity and creamy texture, leading to a lingering succulent finish. At its best: now to 2017. March 2014.	Nelson	93	5 Stars
Waipara Hills	Equinox Chardonnay 2012 The lovely rich bouquet shows apricot, mango, citrus and vanillin oak characters. It's succulent and superbly weighted on the palate with silky texture and excellent fruit intensity, leading to a lingering juicy finish. A stylish expression combining fruit richness with layered complexity. At its best: now to 2018. \$34.00. Limited availability. Oct 2013.	Waipara Valley	93	5 Stars
Walnut Block	Chardonnay 2010 A beautifully maturing chardonnay, the complex bouquet shows stone fruit, citrus, cream and nutty oak aromas, leading to a concentrated palate that's creamy and rounded, backed by superbly integrated acidity. The wine is stylish and great drinking. At its best: now to 2016. \$28.00. Limited availability. Nov 2013.	Marlborough	93	5 Stars
Wild South	Chardonnay 2013 A youthful charmer, the pristine bouquet shows white peach, citrus and a touch of nutty characters. It's nicely rounded and refreshing on the palate with appealing fruit intensity, well balanced by integrated acidity. At its best: now to 2016. \$20.00. www.wildsouthwines.co.nz. March 2014.	Marlborough	86	4 Stars
Wooring Tree	Chardonnay 2012 This is elegant, persistent and stylish. The complex bouquet shows apricot, citrus and subtle vanillin oak aromas, leading to a succulent palate that's rounded and creamy. Beautifully balanced and integrated, this is one of the most attractive Central Otago chardonnays I have tried. The juice was fermented in French oak barrels and matured for nine months with regular lees stirring. At its best: now to 2018. \$30.00. Moderate availability. www.wooringtree.co.nz. Nov 2013.	Central Otago	94	5 Stars

New Zealand Bordeaux-style reds

We lost that lovin' feelin' (75 wines reviewed)

A paradox exists in New Zealand wine. The country's Bordeaux-style reds have been steadily improving in quality since the release of the first commercial cabernet sauvignon by Tom McDonald in 1949, and had become the most important style for wine collectors. The last two decades the advancement has been significant with the top wines now undeniably world class. Yet, in the last decade, the profile and the publicity of the local Bordeaux-style have been diminishing in New Zealand, which is at odds with the global trend. Top wines of Bordeaux, a few dozen *cru classé* wines at least, have revelled in a meteoric rise in demand, fuelled by the growth of new markets, especially China, where collectors and speculators have pushed the prices up to a level never seen before, some increasing as much as tenfold in a matter of few years.

Why has the New Zealand Bordeaux-style become unfashionable? Is it just a matter of wine fashion doing its cyclical thing and that given time the consumers will fall in love with these wines again? Or are we always looking for the next big thing? People's tastes do change; trends come and go and the unpopular can come back in vogue. While the Bordeaux-style maintains a core of enthusiasts, including me, and the consumption is by no means insignificant, it does, however, come in a distant second to pinot noir. As shown on the table below, the Bordeaux grapes decreased their plantings by 18% from 2002 to 2012. During the same period, pinot noir, from roughly the same volume, has more than doubled its plantings. And syrah, from a small base, has tripled its presence.

It is also interesting to note that Bordeaux-style has been snubbed at wine competitions in New Zealand for a number of years. At three major wine shows, Bordeaux-style has not won the 'champion wine of the show' title in over a decade. The last nine years three varietals dominated the ultimate accolade: chardonnay won the title nine times, pinot noir eight times, syrah six times; not once for the Bordeaux-style.

It is impossible to ignore the prominence of pinot noir resulting in the dethroning of Bordeaux-style. People have been beguiled by the charm of pinot. If Bordeaux red is a pin-striped suit, pinot noir is a flowing dress. Bordeaux red satisfies while pinot seduces. Bordeaux red is sturdy and structured, pinot, silky and sensuous. Over simplifying and stereotyping? Perhaps, but perception is powerful. And pinot noir offers the modern, sensitive feel to today's consumers. Don't get me wrong, I am ecstatic about the popularity of pinot noir. It is after all one of the 'noble' grapes, and it is so well suited to many regions in New Zealand for making outstanding examples. I would prefer the country to be renowned for both styles.

Will cabernet sauvignon, the 'King of Grapes', with its fellowship, return to the throne? Will fashion do its full circle and put Bordeaux-style wines to the front of peoples' minds? Will wine commentators write more about them? What will the change in climate do? Could the South Island be the next frontier? One thing is certain. The marked progress made in the last two decades will continue. More suitable clones, older vines, better vineyard management and more confident winemaking will ensure sustained progress.

I am thrilled to see New Zealand Bordeaux-style wines are showing better harmony and balance - greater fruit concentration and improved tannin management delivering longevity as well as early appeal. And I have no doubt the demand will increase in time. I dearly hope the recognition and growth of the style is based on genuine enthusiasm by the consumer rather than on fashion and speculation.

Producing areas of major red grapes in hectares

	2002	2012	% change
Cab Sauv	745	285	-62%
Merlot	1,077	1,196	+11%
Malbec	116	130	+12%
Cab Franc	170	112	-34%
Total Bordeaux varieties	2,108	1,723	-18%
Pinot Noir*	2,029	5,096	+151%
Syrah	117	354	+203%

Source: Vineyard Register Report and Statistical Annual, NZ Winegrowers

* A moderate portion goes into sparkling and rosé production.

2012 Producing areas of Bordeaux varieties in hectares

	Hawke's Bay	Auckland + Northland	Rest of the country
Cab Sauv	253	24	8
Merlot	1,036	44	116
Malbec	103	15	12
Cab Franc	83	22	7
Total	1,475	105	143

Source: Vineyard Register Report and Statistical Annual, NZ Winegrowers

Recent Vintages:

2012 (2 ½ stars): This is the most unfavourable vintage for Bordeaux grapes in a decade. No cyclones or major frosts but it was a summer that didn't feel like a real summer. Cool to warm. The unwelcomed rain in early April didn't help during the harvest, but the main culprit was the gloomy summer that failed to provide grapes with succulent, luscious flavours. Low crops helped and there are a few highlights showing refinement and elegance. 2012 makes the less-than-stellar 2011 vintage look good.

2011 (3 stars): A hard act to follow after a string of great vintages. There are excellent wines showing focus and fruit purity which should evolve beautifully. Others are lean and lacking. At least most producers didn't over-extract or manipulate excessively. A vintage with huge variation in quality, from poor to excellent.

2010 (4 ½ Stars): After the euphoric enthusiasm for the exceptional 2009 vintage, 2010 was always going to live in the shadow of the great one. But as the wines settled down after bottling, more and more 2010s displayed gorgeous character and appeal. Some producers made equally good wines this year. This is an excellent vintage with many delicious offerings.

Due to limited space reviews below 85 points are not published.

Babich	Irongate Cabernet/Merlot/Franc 2010	Hawke's Bay	94	5 Stars	This is a very stylish and poised red for a graceful development. The bouquet is youthful and complex showing dark plum, cassis, cigar and subtle spicy oak characters. The palate is elegant and fine, yet concentrated and persistent with smooth texture and plenty of fine, chalky tannins. For a young wine, this flows beautifully to an impressively long finish. At its best: 2013 to 2020. \$35.00. Limited availability. 13% Diam cork. Dec 2011.
	Irongate Cabernet/Merlot/Franc 2009	Hawke's Bay	93-95	5 Stars	For a young wine, this shows lovely complexity and superb harmony, displaying dark plum, cassis, spicy oak and a hint of dried herb characters on the nose. The palate is concentrated and elegantly framed, showing excellent mid palate weight and texture, leading to an extremely long finish well supported by fine, polished tannins. The wine is immensely satisfying already, but will be glorious in a few years. At its best: 2014 to 2020. \$35.00 Limited availability. 13.5% Diam cork. www.babichwines.co.nz. June 2011.
	Irongate Cabernet/Merlot/Franc 2008	Hawke's Bay	92	4.5 Stars	Classically framed, this is an elegant expression of Irongate displaying ripe cassis, red plum, dried herb and gentle spicy oak characters. The palate is medium-full and beautifully textured with plenty of fine chalky tannins leading to a firm finish. It's beautifully balanced as always and shows much promise to develop rich gamey complexity. At its best: 2012 to 2018. \$35.00 Limited availability. 13% Diam cork. www.babichwines.co.nz. Feb 2011.
	The Patriarch 2011	Hawke's Bay	94	5 Stars	A stylish Bordeaux-style red, the complex bouquet shows red/black plum, cassis, dried herb and beautifully infused cedary oak aromas. The palate is focused and structured with excellent mid palate weight, backed by plenty of fine, chalky tannins. The wine is elegantly poised, ensuring it's gradual development. A blend of 54% cabernet sauvignon, 32% merlot, 14% malbec. At its best: 2015 to 2024. \$70.00. Limited availability. www.babichwines.co.nz. Oct 2013.
	The Patriarch 2010	Hawke's Bay	96	5 Stars	A stunning expression of Cabernet blend, the bouquet is gloriously complex and fragrant with cassis, blueberry, game and cedary oak characters. It's concentrated and powerfully flavoured on the palate, while remaining exquisitely poised, with excellent density and texture, finishing extremely long and expansive. This exceptional wine is a blend of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot and 13% Malbec. At its best: 2014 to 2025. \$60.00. Limited availability. 13% Diam cork. Dec 2011.
	The Patriarch 2009	Hawke's Bay	94-96	5 Stars	This is outstanding. It's already exhibiting stunning complexity and intensity, even though the best is yet to come after many years in the bottle. The nose is beautifully perfumed, displaying dark plum, cassis, vanillin oak and cigar notes. It's powerful on the palate, yet restrained and poised, with velvety texture and loads of supple tannins. And the delicious flavours continues to evolve on the palate long after the wine is gone, indicating the wine has an enormous potential. 2009 The Patriarch is a blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Cabernet Franc and 25% Malbec. At its best: 2015 to 2025. \$60.00 Limited availability. 13.5% Diam cork. June 2011.
	The Patriarch 2008	Hawke's Bay	93	5 Stars	It's restrained on the nose displaying gentle aromas of cassis, dark plum, game and spicy oak. The palate is ripe and firm with excellent mid palate weight and compact tannins providing a superb structure and a lengthy dry finish. Made from 61% Cabernet Sauvignon and 39% Merlot, this needs time to evolve. At its best: 2014 to 2020. \$60.00 Limited availability. Diam cork. www.babichwines.co.nz. Feb 2011.
Balthazar	Merlot Cabernet Franc 2010	Hawke's Bay	91	4.5 Stars	A beautifully expressed Bordeaux-style red, the engaging bouquet shows cassis, dark plum, game and subtle cigar aromas. It's medium-full on the palate with lovely mid palate weight and silky texture, finishing elegantly dry. The wine shows excellent balance and harmony. Still looking youthful. At its best: now to 2017. \$28.00. Jan 2014.
Bell Bird Bay	Reserve Merlot Cabernet 2011	Hawke's Bay	86	4 Stars	It's complex and fragrant on the nose displaying dark plum, game, spice and nutty characters with a hint of cigar notes. The palate is medium-full and smooth with attractive fruit intensity, beautifully framed by supple tannins. Lovely partner to savoury meaty dishes. At its best: now to 2016. \$26.00. April 2014.
Blanket Hills	Slow Boat Merlot 2010	Hawke's Bay	86	4 Stars	An elegantly expressed merlot displaying inviting aromas of red plum, floral, spice and a hint of cedar. The palate is medium-full and nicely textured with lovely fruit intensity, finishing pleasantly dry. At its best: now to 2015. 14% Screw cap. April 2013.

Clearwater Cove	Merlot 2013 A youthful charmer, the wine shows lovely ripe plum, blueberry and floral aromas with a touch of spice complexity on the nose. It's nicely weighted on the palate with appealing fruit intensity and supple tannins. The wine is well integrated and silky, offering great early drinking. At its best: now to 2017. \$17.00. Widely available. Jan 2014.	East Coast	86	4 Stars
Coopers Creek	SV Cabernet Sauvignon "Gravels and Metals" 2011 It's beautifully ripe on the nose displaying cassis, dark plum and hints of floral and nutty characters. The palate shows excellent harmony and balanced, elegantly framed by fine texture and supple tannins. At its best: 2014 to 2018. \$30.00. Moderate availability. Oct 2013.	Hawke's Bay	91	4.5 Stars
Craggy Range	Te Kahu Gimblett Gravels Vineyard 2011 This has been such a reliable, well-priced Bordeaux-style red, and this latest offering delivers excellent quality again. The fragrant bouquet shows cassis, blueberry, spice and a hint of dried herb notes. It's ripe and beautifully expressive on the palate with a rounded mouthfeel, nicely supported by fine, elegant dry tannins. A blend of 69% merlot, 13% cabernet sauvignon, 9% cabernet franc, 9% malbec. At its best: 2014 to 2020. \$28.00. 13%. Screw cap. Oct 2013.	Hawke's Bay	90	4.5 Stars
	Te Kahu Gimblett Gravels Vineyard 2010 A beautifully styled red, the bouquet is ripe and elegantly lifted showing cassis, dark plum, game and a subtly infused cedary oak characters. The palate is concentrated and finely textured with excellent mid palate density, finishing long and velvety, backed by plenty of polished tannins. Very promising. The 2010 Te Kahu is a blend of 80% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon and 4% Malbec, and the wine was matured in French oak barriques (28% new) for 13 months. At its best: 2013 to 2018. \$27.00. Widely available. 13.5% Screw cap. Mar 2012.	Hawke's Bay	91-93	4.5 Stars
	Te Kahu Gimblett Gravels Vineyard 2009 A very refined and elegant version of Te Kahu, yet the fruit concentration is excellent, and so are the overall balance and structure. The nose is ripe and fragrant displaying dark plum, spice, floral and subtle nutty oak characters. It's juicy and smooth on the palate with a rounded mouthfeel and plenty of polished tannins. A youthful wine showing much promise and potential. Made from 80% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Malbec, and the wine was matured in French oak barriques (22% new) for 15 months. At its best: 2012 to 2017. \$26.00 Widely available. 14% Screw cap. www.craggyrange.com. March 2011.	Hawke's Bay	91	4.5 Stars
	Merlot Gimblett Gravels Vineyard 2011 This is a real charmer, exhibiting pristine aromas of black/blueberry, dark plum, floral and a hint of cedary oak. The palate is succulent and beautifully weighted with silky texture and excellent intensity, leading to a delicately dry finish backed by plenty of polished tannins. Wonderful harmony and balance. At its best: 2014 to 2020. \$32.00. 13%. Screw cap. www.craggyrange.com. Oct 2013.	Hawke's Bay	93	5 Stars
	Sophia 2011 It's refined and beautifully elegant, exhibiting dark plum, blueberry, game, floral and subtle cedar characters on the nose. The palate is ripe, fleshy and supple, with lovely fruit weight and velvety texture. The wine is beautifully supported by plenty of fine chalky tannins. Superb structure and length. A blend of 60% merlot, 24% cabernet sauvignon, 14% cabernet franc, 2% petit verdot. The wine was matured in French oak barriques (37%) for 19 months. At its best: 2016 to 2023. \$73.00. 13.5%. Natural cork. June 2013.	Hawke's Bay	94	5 Stars
	Sophia 2009 This Merlot dominant wine is compelling and convincing with glorious richness and power while remaining elegant and perfectly poised. The nose is superbly ripe and complex, displaying dark plum, spice, cocoa and vanillin oak characters. It's exuberant and seductive at the same time, with velvety texture and outstanding mid palate weight leading to a gloriously long finish. The wine is supple, fleshy and immensely appealing already, although a few more years will bring out even more complex delicious flavours. At its best: 2013 to 2022. \$70.00 Widely available. 14% Natural cork.	Hawke's Bay	97	5 Stars
	The Quarry 2011 This yet again delivers a convincing argument that cabernet is very much at home in the Gimblett Gravels district. This latest rendition of the 'Left Bank' is beautifully ripe and restrained, showing cassis, dark plum, blueberry, floral and nutty characters. It's concentrated and focused with outstanding mid palate weight and texture. Loads of fine, grainy tannins too. Extremely long and stylish. A blend of 95 cabernet sauvignon, 4% merlot, 1% cabernet franc. The wine was matured in French oak barriques (50% new) for 19 months. At its best: 2016 to 2025. \$73.00. 13%. Natural cork. June 2013.	Hawke's Bay	94	5 Stars
	The Quarry 2009 This is hard work, as it does not show the immediate charm and delight of Sophia or Le Sol. Instead, this youthful and restrained Cabernet appears less flattering and inexpressive. However, given the pedigree of this label and the superb vintage, I have no doubt, given time, The Quarry 2009 will be as profound as other Craggy Prestige wines (or ample aeration if you were to drink now). The bouquet shows refined aromas of cassis, red plum, floral and subtle spicy oak. The palate is focused and linear, as a classy young Cabernet should be, showing finely textured mouthfeel and beautifully pitched fine, chalky tannins. The wine is meticulously detailed and most promising. At its best: 2014 to 2022. \$63.00 Moderate availability. 14% Natural cork. May 2011.	Hawke's Bay	95-97	5 Stars

Clearview	Enigma 2012	Hawke's Bay	91	4.5 Stars	A beautifully proportioned Bordeaux blend, the complex bouquet shows cassis, blueberry, cigar and spicy oak aromas. It's focused and elegantly weighted on the palate with lovely fruit intensity and silky texture. The wine shows excellent structure and harmony. A blend of merlot, malbec and cabernet sauvignon. At its best: now to 2020. \$59.00. Moderate availability. Dec 2013.
	Old Olive Block 2012	Hawke's Bay	88	4 Stars	Youthful and delightful, the lifted bouquet shows dark plum, blueberry, floral and dried herb aromas. It's succulent and nicely weighted on the palate with appealing fruit intensity, backed by polished tannins. Fine and elegant, this is well balanced and integrated. A blend of merlot, cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc and malbec. At its best: now to 2018. \$39.00. Moderate availability. Dec 2013.
Crossroads	Milestone Series Merlot 2012	Hawke's Bay	86	4 Stars	A lovely medium-bodied merlot, the fragrant bouquet shows dark plum, floral and hints of dried herb and roasted nut characters. It's ripe and nicely textured on the palate with fine, gently drying tannins providing a pleasing dry finish. A well-proportioned red. At its best: now to 2016. \$22.00. Widely available. Nov 2013.
Elephant Hill	Hieronymus 2011	Hawke's Bay	93	5 Stars	A beautifully expressed Bordeaux-style red, grapes were grown on their vineyards in Gimblett Gravels (organic) and Te Awanga. Youthful and full of promise, the bouquet shows cassis, dark plum, blueberry and a hint of dried herb characters. It's concentrated and succulent on the palate with excellent focus, leading to a lengthy smooth finish. Tannins are polished and integrated, providing lovely structure. At its best: 2014 to 2020. \$34.00. Moderate availability. 13.5% Screw cap. March 2013.
	Le Phant 2012	Hawke's Bay	91	4.5 Stars	It's ripe and fragrant on the nose displaying cassis, blueberry, floral and nutty characters. The palate is succulent and rounded with silky texture, beautifully framed by fine, chalky tannins. The wine is fruit-expressive and delightful to drink already. A blend of merlot, malbec and cabernet franc from their vineyards in the Gimblett Gravels and the Bridge Pa Triangle districts. At its best: now to 2018. \$24.00. www.elephanthill.co.nz. Feb 2014.
	Le Phant 2009	Hawke's Bay	93	5 Stars	What a lovely wine. A blend of Merlot/Cabernet, it's ripe and richly flavoured while showing restraint and structure. The nose is beautifully fragrant, displaying dark plum, cassis, spice and subtle cedary oak characters. It's succulent and smooth, and beautifully defined on the palate with a pleasant dry finish. At its best: now to 2015. \$30.00 Moderate availability. 14% Screw cap. www.elephanthill.co.nz. Aug 2011.
	Merlot 2009	Hawke's Bay	91	4.5 Stars	A single varietal merlot can look underwhelming. Not this one. It's superbly ripe on the nose displaying blackberry, dark plum, floral and cedary oak characters. The palate is concentrated and dense with velvety texture and supple tannins. It's fleshy and sumptuous. At its best: now to 2018. \$24.00. Widely available. 13.5% Screw cap. www.elephanthill.co.nz. March 2013.
Frizzell	Merlot Malbec 2010	Hawke's Bay	90	4.5 Stars	A beautifully maturing red, the complex bouquet shows dark plum, game, spice and subtle cedar notes, followed by a rounded palate filled with appealing flavours. It's fleshy and supple, and very long on the finish. At its best: now to 2015. \$24.00. Nov 2013.
Gillman	2007	Matakana	94	5 Stars	This is a beautiful expression of Bordeaux-style. The complex bouquet shows fragrant aromas of cassis, dark plum, game and cedar with a hint of dried herb notes. It's concentrated and richly textured with excellent mid palate weight, perfectly supported by plenty of fine, chalky tannins. Silky smooth and rounded, yet firmly structured. Immensely stylish. A blend of cabernet franc, merlot and malbec. At its best: now to 2020. \$70.00. Limited availability. Dec 2013.
	2006	Matakana	94	5 Stars	This is a beautifully styled Bordeaux blend (Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Malbec) displaying cassis, game and spicy oak characters with a touch of cigar complexity on the nose. The palate is classic and beautifully poised with excellent mid palate weight and smooth texture, leading to a lingering dry finish backed by fine/firm tannins. At its best: now to 2018. \$70.00. Limited availability. 13.5% Natural cork. 2653 bottles made. Jan 2012.
Mahurangi River	Maximus Malbec Merlot 2012	Matakana	86	4 Stars	It's youthful and deeply coloured with pristine aromas of blackberry, dark plum, spice and floral. The palate is ripe and nicely weighted with plenty of fine, chalky tannins, providing excellent structure. At its best: 2014 to 2018. \$26.00. Oct 2013.

Man O' War	Ironclad 2010	Waiheke Island	96	5 Stars	A wine of enormous depth, the engaging bouquet shows cassis, dark plum, game, floral and cedar characters. It's powerful and richly flavoured on the palate, yet elegantly framed by tons of polished tannins, finishing exceptionally long. Beautifully weighted, harmonised and integrated, this should evolve gracefully. At its best: 2015 to 2025. \$54.00. Widely available. 14.5% Screw cap. Sept 2012.
	Ironclad 2009	Waiheke Island	91	4.5 Stars	A lovely complex red displaying dark plum, game, spice and subtle cedary oak characters. The palate is beautifully weighted and elegantly framed with silky texture and polished tannins. A stylish Bordeaux-blend with excellent harmony and lengthy. This 2009 Ironclad is a blend of 34% Cabernet Franc, 31% Merlot, 22% Malbec, 7% Petit Verdot and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. At its best: now to 2016. \$50.00. Moderate availability. 14.5% Screw cap. www.manowarvineyards.co.nz. Dec 2011.
	Warspite 2010	Auckland	94	5 Stars	A beautifully expressed Bordeaux-style red made from grapes grown on their Ponui Island (61.5% cabernet franc, 23.2% merlot, 15.3% malbec). The complex bouquet shows dark plum, blueberry, game, cedar and dried herb characters. It's concentrated and dense on the palate with lovely texture, leading to a classic dry finish backed by fine, chalky tannins. Beautifully structured for gradual development. At its best: 2014 to 2022. \$54.00. Moderate availability. 14.5% Screw cap. Sept 2012.
Messenger	2010	Auckland	95	5 Stars	A wine of enormous potential, the bouquet shows complex aromas of dark plum, cassis, dried herb, game and subtle cedary oak. It's superbly concentrated and densely textured on the palate with excellent focus and weight, leading to an extremely long succulent finish backed by plenty of supple tannins. Already a gratifying wine, this will evolve gradually to a stunning beauty. A blend of cabernet franc, merlot and malbec. At its best: 2014 to 2025. \$85.00. Limited availability. 14% Natural cork. July 2012.
	Le Ménage à Trois 2009	Auckland	92	4.5 Stars	For a young wine, this is showing impressive complexity, displaying dark plum, cassis, dried herb and game characters with a hint of dried fruits. The palate is powerful and richly textured with lovely fruit intensity and plenty of fine, chalky tannins providing a gentle firm finish. A blend of Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Malbec, this is a beautifully styled red. At its best: 2012 to 2016. 13.1% Diam cork. www.messengerwines.com. Aug 2011.
Mills Reef	Elsbeth Cabernet Merlot 2011	Hawke's Bay	94	5 Stars	It's immediately appealing on the nose displaying dark plum, blueberry, floral and cedary oak aromas, followed by a succulent palate that's silky and rounded. It's fine, long and very attractive. A wine that combines elegance and power so beautifully. At its best: now to 2022. \$45.00. Oct 2013.
	Elsbeth Cabernet Merlot 2010	Hawke's Bay	95	5 Stars	A youthful wine yet shows impressive complexity and harmony on the nose, displaying cassis, dark plum, dried herb and cedary oak aromas. The palate is full, weighty and textured with outstanding fruit concentration, beautifully framed by fine, chalky tannins. This is a top-flight Bordeaux-style red showing glorious flavours and superb structure. From their Mere Road Vineyard in the Gimblett Gravels district. At its best: 2015 to 2024. \$45.00. Oct 2013.
	Elsbeth Cabernet Merlot 2009	Hawke's Bay	95	5 Stars	For a young wine this is immensely appealing already, yet shows the potential to develop stunning complexity with further time in the bottle. The bouquet is haunting and engaging with cassis, dark plum, game, truffle and cedar characters. It's rich and sumptuous, while remaining firm and dry with velvety texture and fine, chalky tannins. From the Gimblett Gravels. At its best: 2013 to 2020. \$45.00. Moderate availability. 14% Screw cap. Dec 2011.
	Elsbeth Cabernet Sauvignon 2011	Hawke's Bay	92	4.5 Stars	This is a lovely expression of the variety, displaying classic aromas of cassis, dark plum, dried herb together with elegant cedary oak notes. The palate is medium-full and rounded with excellent mid palate weight, beautifully supported by fine, chalky tannins. Stylish and refined, this promises to develop gracefully. At its best: 2015 to 2022. \$45.00. Oct 2013.
	Elsbeth Cabernet Sauvignon 2010	Hawke's Bay	95	5 Stars	The wine has an awesome presence, as great cabernet should. The complex bouquet shows classic cabernet aromas - cassis, cigar, floral - beautifully enhanced by spicy, cedary oak. It's concentrated and silky on the palate displaying wonderful richness and density, leading to a superbly long, pleasingly dry finish. To make a single varietal cabernet this good is very impressive indeed. At its best: 2015 to 2024. \$45.00. Oct 2013.
	Elsbeth Cabernet Sauvignon 2009	Hawke's Bay	95	5 Stars	You rarely see great single varietal Cabernet Sauvignon, but this is seriously good, exhibiting classic aromas of cassis, dark plum, cedar and subtle dried herb. The palate is dense and richly textured with outstanding mid palate weight, finishing extremely long with gently firm tannins. A beautifully expressed wine with purity, detail and style. From the Gimblett Gravels. At its best: 2014 to 2022. \$45.00. Moderate availability. 13.5% Screw cap. Dec 2011.

Mills Reef	Elsbeth Malbec 2010	Hawke's Bay	94	5 Stars	This deeply coloured red is impressively dense and powerful, displaying blackberry, dark plum, game and subtle spicy oak characters on the nose. The palate is superbly ripe and opulent with velvety texture and plenty of supple tannins. An outstanding example of Malbec. From the Gimblett Gravels. At its best: 2013 to 2018. \$45.00. 14% Screw cap. Dec 2011.
	Elsbeth Merlot 2009	Hawke's Bay	94	5 Stars	A glorious example of Merlot showing dark plum, blueberry, game and subtle spicy oak characters. The palate is concentrated and supple with excellent mid palate weight and texture, leading to a lengthy finish backed by plenty of fine tannins. A rich Merlot yet superbly structured, ensuring its outstanding development potential. From the Gimblett Gravels. At its best: 2013 to 2020. \$45.00. Moderate availability. 14.5% Screw cap. www.millsreef.co.nz. Dec 2011.
	Reserve Cabernet Merlot 2011	Hawke's Bay	90	4.5 Stars	A lovely expression. The perfumed bouquet shows blackberry, plum, floral and spicy oak aromas, which lead to a succulent palate that's finely textured and rounded, beautifully supported by polished tannins. Both varieties are well integrated, making the palate seamless and immediately appealing. At its best: now to 2018. \$25.00. Oct 2013.
	Reserve Merlot 2012	Hawke's Bay	87	4 Stars	This is supple, smooth and very friendly, displaying dark plum, blueberry, floral and elegant spicy oak aromas on the nose, followed by a juicy palate that's nicely weighted and textured. No hard edges, the wine flows beautifully to a silky, attractive finish. At its best: now to 2018. \$25.00. Oct 2013.
	Reserve Merlot Malbec 2012	Hawke's Bay	88	4 Stars	The wine shows lovely fragrance - red/black plum, cherry, floral, cedar and a hint of dill. It's beautifully fruited on the palate displaying lovely mid palate weight and fine texture, leading to an elegant dry finish. A lovely medium-full-bodied red showing excellent harmony and balance. At its best: now to 2018. \$25.00. Oct 2013.
Mount Riley	Merlot Malbec 2013	Marlborough	90	4.5 Stars	This youthful beauty is full of appealing fruit flavours - dark plum, blueberry, cassis - together with subtle nutty, spicy notes. It's supple, silky and rounded with excellent intensity, beautifully supported by fine-grained tannins. Very easy to like. At its best: now to 2017. \$22.00. May 2014.
Obsidian	Cabernet Merlot 2010	Waiheke Island	93	5 Stars	It's beautifully complex on the nose displaying dark plum, game, spice and cigar box aromas, leading to a concentrated palate that's filled with silky texture and rich fruit intensity. The finish is superbly long and smooth, beautifully supported by plenty of supple tannins. A fabulous wine to partner rich meaty dishes. At its best: now to 2018. Nov 2013.
	The Obsidian 2009	Waiheke Island	94	5 Stars	It's beautifully fragrant showing classic Bordeaux aromas of cassis, dark plum, cigar and subtle game complexity. The palate is concentrated and elegantly framed with lovely ripeness and velvety texture, leading to a superbly long dry finish backed by plenty of polished tannins. Beautifully harmonised and balanced for graceful development. A blend of 35% cabernet sauvignon, 31% merlot, 15% cabernet franc, 13% petit verdot & 6% malbec. At its best: 2013 to 2020. \$56.00. Limited availability. 14% Natural cork. www.obsidian.co.nz. Nov 2012.
Omaka Springs Estates	Merlot 2011	Marlborough	86	4 Stars	This is a delightful expression of the variety showing dark plum, game and nutty characters. The medium-bodied palate is ripe and smooth with appealing fruit intensity and fine-grained tannins. It's well balanced and silky to the finish. At its best: now to 2015. \$20-\$21. 13.5%. Screw cap. www.omaka.co.nz. June 2013.
Osawa	Flying Sheep Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon 2011	Hawke's Bay	87	4 Stars	Elegantly styled, this is gentle and smooth showing dark plum, game and subtle spicy oak aromas on the nose. The palate is medium-full and rounded with bright fruit flavours and polished tannins. At its best: now to 2016. \$35.00. 14%. Screw cap. July 2013.
Peter Yealands	Merlot 2013	Hawke's Bay	87	4 Stars	It's deeply coloured and intensely aromatic, displaying blueberry, dark plum and floral with a hint of nutty characters on the nose. The palate is filled with ripe fruit flavours and finishes smooth and supple. At its best: now to 2018. \$19.00. Widely available. Nov 2013.
Redmetal	Merlot Cabernet Franc 2013	Hawke's Bay	90	4.5 Stars	A promising red from a great vintage, the engaging bouquet shows dark fruit, game, floral and nutty characters. It's supple and beautifully weighted on the palate with elegant density, backed by fine, chalky tannins. The wine exhibits focus and structure, indicating it will develop gracefully to show greater richness and complexity. At its best: 2015 to 2020. \$20.00. Nov 2013.
Selaks	Reserve Merlot Cabernet 2012	Hawke's Bay	86	4 Stars	An elegantly expressed red, the fragrant bouquet shows red fruits, spice and floral with a hint of nutty characters. It's ripe and rounded on the palate with silky texture and gentle tannins, leading to a lingering smooth finish. Medium-bodied and well balanced. At its best: now to 2016. \$23.00. Widely available. Nov 2013.

Sacred Hill	Brokenstone Merlot 2010	Hawke's Bay	95	5 Stars	A beautifully styled red, the bouquet displays pristine fruit aromas of dark plum and blueberry combined with hints of spice, cedar and floral. The palate is equally engaging with excellent concentration and focus, finishing long and satisfying backed by plenty of ripe tannins. It's sumptuous and powerful yet remains poised to develop gracefully. At its best: 2014 to 2025. \$80.00. Limited availability. Natural cork. July 2012.
	Halo Merlot/Cabernet Sauvignon/Cabernet Franc 2012	Hawke's Bay	90	4.5 Stars	This is a beautifully proportioned and styled red. The fragrant bouquet shows cassis, dark plum, blueberry and a hint of cigar box aromas. It's succulent and nicely weighted on the palate with excellent fruit weight and silky texture, leading to a fine, dry finish. Lovely balance and harmony. At its best: now to 2018. \$28.00. Nov 2013.
	Helmsman Cabernet Merlot 2010	Hawke's Bay	97	5 Stars	The team at Sacred Hill produced yet another profound wine under this exceptional label. The bouquet is sophisticated and complex, exhibiting cassis, dark plum, cedar and a touch of dried herb notes. It's dense, saturated and multi-layered on the palate with superb focus and texture, brilliantly supported by fine, chalky tannins. This is a sturdy red but there are no hard edges. It just flows effortlessly through the palate to an extremely long finish. A compelling wine destined to become a magnificent beauty in a few years. At its best: 2015 to 2027. \$85.00. Limited availability. July 2012.
	Orange Label Merlot Cabernet 2012	Hawke's Bay	86	4 Stars	The wine shows pristine fruit aromas of dark plum and blueberry with hints of dried herb and roasted nuts. It's succulent and rounded with lovely fruit intensity. A beautifully balanced red showing attractive fruit flavours with a delicately dry finish. At its best: now to 2017. \$20.00. March 2014.
Sileni	Cellar Selection Merlot 2013	Hawke's Bay	86	4 Stars	It's deeply coloured and beautifully perfumed on the nose displaying blueberry, dark plum, floral and a hint of spice notes. The palate is succulent and lively with excellent fruit intensity, backed by fine tannins. Youthful and very friendly. At its best: now to 2017. \$20.00. Oct 2013.
	Estate Selection "The Triangle" Merlot 2012	Hawke's Bay	88	4 Stars	Lovely fragrance on the nose - dark plum, cigar and cedar. The palate is beautifully ripe and rounded with gentle fruit weight, supported by supple tannins. It's plump and friendly, and finishes with appealing fruity flavours. At its best: now to 2017. \$25.00. Nov 2013.
Soho	Revolver 2012	Waiheke Island	90	4.5 Stars	The wine shows lovely fragrant aromas of dark plum, blueberry, dried herb and subtle spicy oak. It's ripe and rounded on the palate with fine texture and excellent focus, backed by polished tannins. A beautifully poised red showing elegant style and superb potential. A blend of 44% merlot, 27% malbec, 24% cabernet franc, 5% cabernet sauvignon. At its best: 2014 to 2020. Oct 2013.
	Revolver Merlot Malbec Cabernet Franc 2011	Waiheke Island	90	4.5 Stars	The lovely bouquet shows dark plum, floral, spice and subtle cedar characters. It's ripe and rounded on the palate with medium-full weight and excellent fruit intensity, leading to a silky-smooth finish. The wine shows lovely ripeness and harmony. At its best: now to 2016. \$40.00. 12.6%. Screw cap. May 2013.
Stonecroft	Cabernet Sauvignon 2009	Hawke's Bay	95	5 Stars	There are few things more gratifying than aromas of ripe (but not over-ripe) Cabernet. The bouquet of this wine is stunning, exhibiting cassis, dark plum, game and cedar with subtle infusion of dried herbs. It's concentrated and weighty on the palate with supple texture and plenty of fine, chalky tannins. A wine of sophistication and vigour, destined to evolve into a majestic red. At its best: 2014 to 2024. \$35.00. Moderate availability. 13.5% Diam cork. Jan 2012.
	Ruhanui Cabernet Sauvignon / Merlot 2011	Hawke's Bay	90	4.5 Stars	From a very low cropping year, this is a lovely elegant expression of Bordeaux-style red displaying complex aromas of dark plum, cassis, game and a hint of cigar. It's refined and focused on the palate with lovely fruit richness, balanced by fine tannins. Lovely harmony and style. From the Gimblett Gravels Wine Growing District. 60% cabernet sauvignon, 40% merlot. At its best: 2014 to 2018. \$35-\$40.00. Moderate availability. 13.5%. Diam. www.stonecroft.co.nz. March 2013.
TerraVin	"J" 2010	Marlborough	95	5 Stars	A wine of commanding presence, the fragrant bouquet shows cassis, dark plum, game, cedar and vanilla aromas. It's packed with ripe flavours and rich texture, beautifully supported by loads of supple tannins. A multi-layered blend of merlot, malbec and cabernet, it's supple, fleshy and superbly long. At its best: now to 2020. \$60.00. Nov 2013.
The People's	Merlot 2011	Hawke's Bay	87	4 Stars	A lovely medium-full-bodied merlot, the bouquet is fragrant and inviting with dark plum, blueberry, spice and vanilla characters, leading to a succulent palate that's nicely textured, balanced by supple tannins. Harmonious and very appealing. At its best: now to 2016. \$22.00. Nov 2013.

Ti Point	"Two" Merlot Cabernet Franc 2011 The owner/winemaker, Tracy Haslam, has fashioned a classically framed red with elegance, structure and excellent focus. The bouquet is youthful and fragrant displaying dark plum, blueberry, floral and hints of cedar and dried herb notes. It's ripe and rounded on the palate with lovely mid palate weight and fine texture, backed by plenty of polished tannins providing a pleasing dry finish. At its best: 2014 to 2020. \$24.00. 13%. Screw cap. July 2013.	Auckland	91	4.5 Stars
Trinity Hill	Gimblett Gravels "The Gimblett" 2012 The bouquet is beautifully perfumed, displaying dark plum, blueberry, floral and a hint of dried herb aromas. It's nicely focused and elegantly expressed with pristine flavours and fine texture, backed by plenty of polished tannins. A blend of 39% merlot, 35% cabernet franc, 9% cabernet sauvignon, 9% petit verdot, 8% malbec. At its best: 2014 to 2020. \$35.00. Oct 2013.	Hawke's Bay	90	4.5 Stars
	Gimblett Gravels "The Gimblett" 2011 Youthful and promising, this deeply coloured Bordeaux-style red displays cassis, black/blueberry, floral and a hint of cedar characters on the nose. The palate is focused and beautifully weighted with silky texture and excellent fruit intensity, leading to a lingering finish well supported by plenty of fine tannins. A blend of 36% cabernet sauvignon, 26% merlot, 25% cabernet franc, 9% malbec, 6% petit verdot. At its best: now to 2020. \$35.00. Moderate availability. 13% Diam cork. www.trinityhill.com. April 2013.	Hawke's Bay	91	4.5 Stars
Turanga Creek	'Notre Terroir' Merlot Malbec 2010 A stylish red displaying fragrant aromas of cassis, dark plum, game and spicy oak. The palate is ripe and nicely weighted with fine texture and an elegant dry finish. The wine shows lovely harmony and poise. At its best: 2013 to 2017. \$28.00. Limited availability. Certified organic. 13.5% Screw cap. www.turangacreek.co.nz. Nov 2012.	Auckland	90	4.5 Stars
Turanga Creek	Merlot Syrah 'Down to Earth' 2011 It's beautifully fragrant on the nose displaying red/black plum, game, spice and subtle cedar notes. The palate is medium-full and silky with lovely fruit richness and plenty of fine-grained tannins. A well-rounded red with pleasing flavours. At its best: now to 2016. \$20.00. Moderate availability. 12.5% Screw cap. In conversion to organic. www.turangacreek.co.nz. March 2013.	Auckland	87	4 Stars
Two Gates	Merlot Cabernet Franc 2010 A classically expressed Bordeaux-style red, the aromatic bouquet shows cassis, dark plum, game and elegantly infused spicy oak notes. It's beautifully weighted on the palate with elegant density and fine texture, together with supple tannins and a lengthy finish. The wine shows plenty of appeal already and it should continue to improve. At its best: now to 2018. \$35.00. 14%. Screw cap. www.rmwiners.co.nz. July 2013.	Hawke's Bay	91	4.5 Stars

Around the Orbit

Review of wines from tastings outside this issue's major themes.
Wines tasted at events are listed separately.

- **Te Mata Estate Showcase 2014** (p 25-26)
- **New releases and wines of interest** (p 26-48)

Te Mata Estate Showcase 2014

March 2014

2012 is a momentous vintage for Te Mata Estate. Not because it was an exceptionally good vintage, in fact far from it, but it was for the decision not to release their flagship wine, Coleraine. It was a difficult vintage resulting in a small volume, as well as less than stellar quality. Coleraine is probably New Zealand's most collected wine, and the loss of income would be significant for them. A costly decision for now but a wise one in the long term, as it will enhance the reputation of Coleraine and that of Te Mata Estate.

Both Cape Crest and Elston, the whites from the 2012 vintage do, however, show wonderful fruit essence and focus with excellent acidity. They are slightly leaner but show precision and persistency. This year's release includes some of the exceptional 2013 harvest, and it is fabulous. It's a mouth-watering prospect for the release of Te Mata Estate's top 2013 reds in March 2015.

This year's Showcase event included a tasting of wines from the magnificent 2007 vintage: beautifully maturing wines exhibiting impeccable balance and harmony, together with beguiling complexity. Yes, we all should have bought more of these wines.

Te Mata	Estate Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc 2013	Hawke's Bay	87	4 Stars
	Daisy fresh and zesty, this vibrant sauvignon shows lovely lifted aromas of green apple, white peach and citrus with a hint of floral on the nose. The palate is lively and taut with delicate fruit intensity, backed by racy acidity. At its best: now to 2016. \$22.00. March 2014.			
	Estate Vineyards Chardonnay 2013	Hawke's Bay	88	4 Stars
	A restrained style, the bouquet shows elegant aromas of white stone fruit, rockmelon and almond, leading to a succulent palate that's poised and refreshing. Stylish and sleek. At its best: now to 2017. \$22.00. March 2014.			
	Estate Vineyards Gamay Noir 2013	Hawke's Bay	88	4 Stars
	As youthful and fragrant as it should be. Raspberries and red cherries with lifted floral, beautifully supported by a juicy palate. It's soft and smooth, and refreshing to the finish. At its best: now to 2015. \$22.00. March 2014.			
	Estate Vineyards Syrah 2013	Hawke's Bay	91	4.5 Stars
	This is excellent. Pure fruit aromas of blueberry and dark plum with subtle spice and floral notes. The palate is juicy and elegant with silky mouthfeel, backed by fine tannins. The wine shows wonderful balance and harmony together with perfectly ripe fruit flavours. At its best: now to 2017. \$22.00.			
Zara Viognier 2013	Hawke's Bay	94	5 Stars	
This has to be the best wine made under this renowned label. It's powerfully aromatic on the nose showing apricot, nectarine, orange zest and floral, leading to an opulent palate that's concentrated and firmly structured with brilliantly balanced acidity. Seamless and flowing. The wine is made from the New Zealand's oldest viognier plantings at the estate's Woodthorpe Terraces Vineyard. At its best: now to 2018. \$32.00. March 2014.				
Cape Crest Sauvignon Blanc 2007	Hawke's Bay	94	5 Stars	
This label is known to improve beautifully in the bottle. It is indeed great drinking now with its apple and citrus flavours with gentle dried herb and flinty complexity. The wine shows excellent fruit concentration, elegantly framed by fine texture and crisp acidity. Great length of flavour. At its best: now to 2017. Library stock. March 2014.				
Elston Chardonnay 2007	Hawke's Bay	94	5 Stars	
The wine has reached its peak and is looking magnificent. Gorgeous ripe peach, roasted almond, cream and oatmeal aromas lead to a richly textured palate. It's rounded and flowing, focused yet expansive. Wonderful fruit richness brilliantly structured by bright acidity. At its best: now to 2017. Library stock. March 2014.				

Te Mata	Awatea 2007	Hawke's Bay	95	5 Stars	One of the best Awatea ever made, this classy red offers spectacular complexity: dark fruits, roasted meat, cigar and earth aromas. The wine is elegantly expressed yet powerful and persistent with outstanding mid palate weight and texture, leading to a super-long finish. Tannins are fine and chalky, and beautifully integrated. A blend of 40% cabernet sauvignon, 17% cabernet franc, 38% merlot and 5% petit verdot. At its best: now to 2020. Library stock. March 2014.
	Bullnose Syrah 2007	Hawke's Bay	95	5 Stars	It's no wonder that this is one of the most collected New Zealand syrahs. With maturity this wine sings with a baritone voice – deep and soothing. The wine is filled with dark plum, game and spice characters with subtly infused vanillin oak notes. It's perfectly weighted and richly textured with supple mouthfeel, surrounded by delicately drying tannins. At its best: now to 2018. Library stock.
	Cape Crest Sauvignon Blanc 2012	Hawke's Bay	93	5 Stars	This is as good as it has always been. A beautifully aromatic wine showing dill, grapefruit, green apple and flint, together with a superbly concentrated palate that's linear and racy. Needs time to show its best but it's very promising. At its best: 2015 to 2020. \$32.00. March 2014.
	Elston Chardonnay 2012	Hawke's Bay	93	5 Stars	A wine of delicate precision and focus, this young beauty shows white peach, rockmelon, ripe citrus and subtle creamy notes on the nose. The palate is equally elegant and pristine with fine texture and whispering fruit flavours. Excellent balance harmony. At its best: 2016 to 2022. \$36.00. March 2014.
	Awatea 2012	Hawke's Bay	92	4.5 Stars	A small amount of Coleraine made from this vintage ended up here. The wine shows pristine aromas of red fruit and floral with hints of dried herb and roasted nut complexity. It's elegant and flowing on the palate with excellent detail, backed by finely drying chalky tannins. Wonderful structure and length. At its best: 2016 to 2024. \$36.00. March 2014.
	Bullnose Syrah 2012	Hawke's Bay	93	5 Stars	The perfumed bouquet is intoxicating. This seems to be more fragrant than most years, displaying notes of raspberry, blueberry, dark plum and floral with a hint of spice. The medium-full-bodied palate is ripe and rounded with silky texture and lovely polished tannins. Seamless as usual, inviting as always; a delightful charmer. At its best: now to 2020. \$52.00. March 2014.

New releases and wines of interest

Alvear	Fino CB	Montilla – Moriles	93	5 Stars	This is cracking good. Made from pedro ximenez, it shows all the classic flavours of fino sherry and then some. It's tangy and crisp with green olive and seaweed notes, leading to a fabulously long finish. The wine is flavoursome and punchy yet elegant and linear. \$19.00. 375 ml. Moderate availability. NZ Distributor: St. Vincent's Cave www.stvincentscave.com . Nov 2013.
Anchorage	Gewürztraminer 2013	Nelson	90	4.5 Stars	The wine shows classic fragrant aromas of peach, mango, spice and floral, followed by a juicy palate that's refreshing and textured. It's rich and flavoursome, while remaining balanced and flowing. A lovely wine to partner mildly spicy dishes. At its best: now to 2017. \$19.00. Limited availability.
	Classic Riesling 2013	Nelson	91	4.5 Stars	A racy riesling displaying lemon/lime zest, floral and stone fruit aromas, leading to a taut palate filled with delicate flavours and mouth-watering acidity. A refined example destined to develop rich complexity with time. At its best: 2014 to 2020. \$19.00. Widely available. Oct 2013.
Aramis Vineyards	White Label Shiraz 2010	McLaren Vale	93	5 Stars	It's full, rich and generous, filled with blackberry, dark plum, spice and nutty oak characters. The palate is velvety and rounded, and finishes superbly long. An immediately appealing shiraz showing fruit richness and supple tannins. At its best: now to 2018. \$26.00. Moderate availability. NZ Distributor: Sherwood Estate. Feb 2014.
	Single Vineyard Shiraz 2010	McLaren Vale	94	5 Stars	Deeply coloured and richly flavoured, this is a gorgeous expression showing dark fruit, game, chocolate and toasty oak aromas on the nose. The palate is concentrated and sumptuous with excellent density and texture, and wonderfully structured with plenty of rounded tannins. At its best: now to 2020. \$36.00. Moderate availability. Feb 2014.
Aronui	Single Vineyard Pinot Rosé 2013	Nelson	90	4.5 Stars	A delightful charmer, the lifted bouquet shows red cherry, tropical fruit and floral characters. The palate is succulent and rounded with excellent weight and smooth texture, leading to a lingering juicy finish. This is a delectable rosé with plenty of appealing flavours. At its best: now to 2016. \$22.00. www.aronuiwines.co.nz . Feb 2014.

Arriba	Tempranillo 2012 Ripe, full and flavoursome, this fabulous Spanish red is full of dark plum, blueberry, floral and nutty aromas. The palate is equally inviting with excellent fruit intensity. It's silky and long, and very tasty. At its best: now to 2016. \$17.00. Widely available. NZ Distributor: Bennett & Deller. Feb 2014.	Spain	91	4.5 Stars
Ataahua	Riesling 2012 An immensely delicious riesling, the fragrant bouquet shows mandarin, grapefruit, peach and floral aromas, leading to a succulent palate that's both refined and richly flavoured. There's elegant sweetness (28 g/l) which is brilliantly balanced by the acidity, making the wine refreshing and highly enjoyable. At its best: now to 2018. \$24.00. Nov 2013.	Waipara Valley	93	5 Stars
	Gewürztraminer 2012 The gorgeous bouquet is filled with tropical fruit, spice, floral and Turkish Delight aromas. It's silky and rounded on the palate with lovely fruit intensity, nicely supported by integrated acidity. Varietally expressive and flavoursome. At its best: now to 2016. \$24.00. Nov 2013.	Waipara Valley	91	4.5 Stars
	Rosé 2013 It's fruit expressive on the nose displaying peach, citrus, floral and a hint of strawberry aromas, followed by a vibrant palate that's juicy and lively. Pretty, charming and very easy on the palate. At its best: now to 2016. \$24.00. Nov 2013.	Waipara Valley	86	4 Stars
Bellbird Spring	Pinot Noir Rosé 2013 A stylish dry rosé, the elegantly perfumed bouquet shows floral, peach, red cherry and a hint of spice aromas. The palate is refreshing and refined with excellent mid palate weight, brilliantly supported by bright acidity. Lovely poise. Long and delicately dry. At its best: now to 2016. \$26.00. Nov 2013.	Waipara Valley	91	4.5 Stars
Bisquertt	Reserva Petirrojo Merlot 2012 This is a flavoursome merlot showing lovely ripe aromas of dark plum and cherry together with hints of tar and spice notes. The palate is generous and silky with lovely fruit weight and gentle tannins. It's varietal and smooth to the finish. At its best: now to 2015. \$24.00. Moderate availability. 14%. Diam cork. NZ Distributor: Mineral. www.mineralwine.co.nz. July 2013.	Colchagua, Chile	87	4 Stars
	Reserva Petirrojo Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 It's immensely appealing on the nose with cassis, dark plum, floral and vanilla characters. The succulent palate is beautifully weighted with silky texture and supple tannins. A youthful charmer showing excellent fruit expression and integration. At its best: now to 2018. \$24.00. Moderate availability. 14%. Diam cork. July 2013.	Colchagua, Chile	90	4.5 Stars
	Reserva Petirrojo Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 It's immensely appealing on the nose with cassis, dark plum, floral and vanilla characters. The succulent palate is beautifully weighted with silky texture and supple tannins. A youthful charmer showing excellent fruit expression and integration. At its best: now to 2018. \$24.00. Moderate availability. 14%. Diam cork. July 2013.	Colchagua, Chile	90	4.5 Stars
	La Joya Gran Reserva Syrah 2011 The superbly ripe bouquet shows fragrant aromas of dark plum, blackberry, roasted nut and floral. It's plush and dense on the palate with velvety texture and plenty of supple tannins. Dramatic and attractive, the wine shows loads of appealing flavours. At its best: now to 2018. \$28.00. Moderate availability. 13%. Natural cork. July 2013.	Colchagua, Chile	91	4.5 Stars
	La Joya Gran Reserva Malbec 2010 Richly flavoured and densely structured, this powerful expression shows black/blueberry, game, tar and floral notes on the nose. The palate is weighty and expansive with excellent fruit intensity, backed by plenty of cocoa tannins. The wine combines gorgeous ripeness with lovely savoury complexity. At its best: now to 2018. \$28.00. Moderate availability. 14%. Natural cork. July 2013.	Colchagua, Chile	93	5 Stars
Black Cottage	Rosé 2013 Light, fresh and fragrant, this easy-going rosé displays peach, citrus and raspberry aromas on the nose. The palate is juicy and lively with lovely fruit intensity, leading to a lingering crisp finish. Not serious but pretty tasty. At its best: now to 2015. \$18.00. 13.5%. Screw cap. July 2013.	Marlborough	86	4 Stars
Black Estate	Riesling 2012 The wine is youthful and immediately appealing on the nose displaying mandarin, apple, peach and flinty aromas, leading to a juicy palate that's elegant and vibrant with a hint of sweetness and racy acidity. It's flavoursome, well-structured and superbly long on the finish. At its best: now to 2020. \$24.00. 12%. Screw cap. www.blackestate.co.nz. Sept 2013.	Waipara Valley	91	4.5 Stars
Bladen	Riesling 2013 It's pristine and pure on the nose displaying appealing aromas of mandarin, lemon/lime, peach and floral. The palate is juicy and vibrant with outstanding focus and fine texture, together with a hint of sweetness which is perfectly balanced by the acidity. It's fine and very long on the finish. At its best: now to 2020. \$21.00. Limited availability. 12%. Screw cap. Aug 2013.	Marlborough	91	4.5 Stars

Bladen	Gewürztraminer 2013	Marlborough	93	5 Stars	This is totally gratifying. It's powerfully perfumed on the nose showing classic aromas of tropical fruit, floral, spice and Turkish Delight. The palate is concentrated and explosive with rich texture and whispering sweetness, leading to a beautifully long, expansive finish. At its best: now to 2018. \$25.00. Limited availability. 14.5%. Screw cap. Aug 2013.
	Gewürztraminer 2011	Marlborough	91	4.5 Stars	A luscious beauty, the perfumed bouquet shows tropical fruit, peach, floral and subtle spice characters. The palate is powerful, weighty and richly textured, yet beautifully structured, leading to an impressively long, succulent finish. The wine shows all the classic aromas of the variety as well as a flowing mouthfeel, making it quite irresistible. Medium-dry. At its best: now to 2017. \$25.00. 14.5%. Screw cap. www.bladen.co.nz. Aug 2013.
Borgo Selene	Rosso di Sicilia 2012	Sicilia	88	4 Stars	A blend of nerello mascalese and nero d'avola, it's generous and beautifully ripe on the nose showing blackberry, dark plum, game and cocoa characters. The palate is succulent and silky with excellent fruit intensity, leading to a lovely supple finish. At its best: now to 2016. \$20.00. Limited availability. 12.5%. Screw cap. NZ Distributor: Minka Trading. July 2013.
Borsao	Tocado Garnacha 2013	Campo de Borja, Spain	87	4 Stars	It's wonderfully fruity and lively on the nose showing dark plum and blueberry aromas with hints of floral and spice. The palate is juicy and rounded with smooth texture, and finishes long and attractive. Very friendly and easy on the palate. At its best: now to 2016. \$20.00. Widely available. NZ Distributor: Vintners NZ. May 2014.
	Classic Garnacha 2013	Campo de Borja, Spain	90	4.5 Stars	This is really good drinking. The wine combines appealing plum and berry fruit flavours with subtle spice and game complexity. It's nicely weighted on the palate showing excellent fruit intensity, backed by fine texture and delicate tannins. A gorgeous expression of the variety, it's well-balanced, fruit-expressive and highly enjoyable. A blend of 85% garnacha, 10% tempranillo, 5% cabernet. At its best: now to 2018. \$20.00. Widely available. May 2014.
Brick Bay	Rosé 2013	Matakana	86	4 Stars	It's bright and lively on the nose displaying floral, peach, citrus and dill aromas, followed by a juicy palate that shows youthful fruit flavours and a hint of sweetness. The wine finishes long and crisp. Just what you want from a good rose. At its best: now to 2016. \$24.00. Limited availability. Nov 2013.
Brightwater Vineyards	Riesling 2013	Nelson	94	5 Stars	This is so delicious. The fragrant bouquet shows lifted aromas of lemon/lime zest, white peach and floral, followed by a juicy palate that's powerful yet elegant, with subtle sweetness which is brilliantly balanced by refreshing acidity. Fabulous drinking. At its best: now to 2020. \$20.00. Limited availability. www.brightwaterwine.co.nz. May 2014.
Brodie Estate	'Angel's Sigh' Rosé 2013	Martinborough	87	4 Stars	Crisp, light, refreshing and charming, the wine shows lovely floral, peach and citrus aromas with a touch of red cherry notes. It's juicy and lively, and full of friendly flavours. At its best: now to 2016. \$27.00. www.brodieestate.co.nz. Oct 2013.
Brown Brothers	18 Eighty Nine Shiraz 2012	Heathcote	90	4.5 Stars	It's fruit-expressive and perfumed on the nose displaying black/blueberry, dark plum, spice and nutty characters. The palate is ripe and smooth with excellent weight and silky texture. The wine is supple and rounded, and finishes long and succulent. At its best: now to 2020. \$19.00. Widely available. Feb 2014.
	Limited Release Shiraz 2010	Heathcote	93	5 Stars	The wine is packed with ripe blackberry, plum, spice, mint and cedary oak characters. It's concentrated and powerful on the palate with outstanding weight and velvety texture, leading to a gloriously long, sumptuous finish. The wine is dense and intense yet beautifully balanced and flowing. At its best: now to 2022. \$25.00. Limited availability. NZ Distributor: Brown Brothers Wines NZ. Feb 2014.
Browns of Padthaway	T-Trellis Shiraz 2011	Padthaway	87	4 Stars	This is a supple and smooth red, filled with attractive plum, blackberry flavours with hints of spice and nutty oak characters. It's nicely rounded and fruit-expressive on the palate, leading to a lengthy juicy finish. A delightful shiraz showing excellent balance and harmony. At its best: now to 2018. Sept 2013.
Byrne	Viognier 2013	Northland	88	4 Stars	It's wonderfully ripe on the nose displaying apricot, floral and subtle spice aromas, followed by a richly flavoured palate that's velvety and weighty. It's smooth and rounded with plenty of attractive fruit flavours. Grapes were whole bunch pressed and fermented in new French oak barriques using indigenous yeasts, then transferred to stainless steel tanks for wild malolactic fermentation followed by lees stirring and maturation. At its best: now to 2017. \$36.00. Limited availability. www.byrnwine.com. March 2014.

Campos de Luz	Garnacha 2012 It's wonderfully aromatic on the nose displaying classic garnacha aromas of raspberry, cherry and game with subtle spice complexity. The palate is medium-full and succulent with a gorgeous juicy mouthfeel, finishing elegantly dry. At its best: now to 2017. \$14.00. NZ Distributor: Eurovintage. March 2014.	Arinena	90	4.5 Stars
Campos de Risca	Monastrell Syrah 2011 A lovely spicy red, the bouquet shows lifted aromas of dark fruits and game, leading to a nicely rounded palate that's silky and gentle. The fine, polished tannins provide elegant structure and pleasing dry finish. At its best: now to 2015. \$17.00. NZ Distributor: Eurovintage. March 2014.	Jumilla	87	4 Stars
Campos de Viento	Tempranillo 2012 This is fruity, meaty and spicy showing complex aromas of dark fruits and game on the nose, followed by a juicy palate that's rounded and silky. It's gently dry on the finish, making it a brilliant wine to partner rich savoury dishes. At its best: now to 2017. \$14.00. NZ Distributor: Eurovintage. March 2014.	La Mancha	91	4.5 Stars
Canaletto	Chianti Classico 2007 From a great vintage, and with bottle age, this is great drinking. Complex and fragrant, the bouquet shows dark fruits, game, spice and nutty characters with a touch of earthy, savoury notes. It's engaging and persistent on the palate with fine texture and excellent mid palate weight, leading to a lingering dry finish, beautifully supported by plenty of fine tannins. At its best: now to 2015. \$29-\$31. Sept 2013.	Tuscany	91	4.5 Stars
	Chardonnay Verdeca 2011 From the warm southern region, this is delightful and lively, displaying peach, citrus, floral and a hint of nutty aromas on the nose, followed by a refreshing palate that's juicy and crisp. Lovely balance and intensity. At its best: now to 2016. \$24-\$26. 13%. NZ Distributor: Prodotti d'Italia. Sept 2013.	Puglia	87	4 Stars
Cantina Mesa	"Buio" Carignano 2011 This stylish red exhibits elegant aromas of red plum, cherry, game and spice with a hint of thyme on the nose. The palate is focused and tightly structured with silky texture and fine, firm tannins. It's beautifully long and juicy. A wine of discreet power. At its best: now to 2020. \$30.00. Limited availability. 14%. Natural cork. NZ Distributor: Minka Trading. July 2013.	Sardinia	92	4.5 Stars
Caravan	Durif 2012 Durif is about rich fruit intensity, and this shows just that. It's full-bodied and sweetly flavoured with blackberry, dried fruit, game and nutty aromas. The palate is opulent and generous with loads of appealing flavours, leading to a superbly long silky finish. At its best: now to 2020. \$20.00. Moderate availability. NZ Distributor: Procure. Oct 2013.	SE Australia	93	5 Stars
Carchelo	Tinto 2012 Deep, dark and delicious, this popular label delivers again with loads of dark fruits, game, spice and savoury characters. The palate is weighty and generous with smooth texture, beautifully framed by fine, chalky tannins. It's fleshy and sturdy at the same time. A blend of monastrell, tempranillo, syrah and cabernet sauvignon. At its best: now to 2018. \$19.00. NZ Distributor: Eurovintage. March 2014.	Jumilla	93	5 Stars
Carrick	Riesling 2012 This is a fabulous riesling. Succulent, elegantly sweet, bright and refreshing, the wine displays pristine flavours of peach, pineapple and lemon zest. It's concentrated and finely textured, and finishes superbly long and crisp. At its best: now to 2020. \$24.00. 11.5%. Screw cap. Certified organic. June 2013.	Central Otago	93	5 Stars
Champagne Cattier	Premier Cru Brut NV What a gorgeous Champagne this is. Fragrant and inviting, the bouquet shows stone fruit, citrus and apple aromas with lovely yeasty complexity. It's richly flavoured and textured on the palate with bright acidity, providing excellent structure and length to this immensely appealing wine. 40% pinot meunier, 35% pinot noir, 25% chardonnay. \$55.00. Widely available. 12.5%. NZ Distributor: La Cantina Wines www.lacantina.co.nz. Sept 2013.	Champagne	94	5 Stars
	Brut Sensation NV The name of the wine is appropriate. Lovely sensation indeed. A very seductive Champagne displaying lifted aromas of peach, citrus, almond and floral with the classic yeasty complexity. The palate is equally delightful with lovely focus and fine texture, backed by crisp acidity. It's long, silky and very delicious. A blend of 50% pinot meunier, 30% pinot noir, 20% chardonnay, and it comes in a handy 500ml bottle - perfect for two people. \$50.00. Widely available. 12.5%. Sept 2013.	Champagne	93	5 Stars
	Premier Cru Blanc de Blancs NV Made from 100% chardonnay of course, and it a stunner. The elegantly complex bouquet shows citrus, white peach, floral, yeast and brioche aromas, followed by a concentrated palate filled with pristine flavours and bright acidity. Lovely poise and harmony, and very classy. \$80.00. Moderate availability. 12.5%. Sept 2013.	Champagne	95	5 Stars

Chapoutier	Muscat de Beaumes-de-Venise 2012	Rhône	87	4 Stars
	A famous sweet wine from the Southern Rhone, this is elegantly sweet with tropical fruit, peach and floral aromas, beautifully supported by a rounded palate. This is for those who prefer sweet wine with refreshing taste that's not cloying. Excellent with cheese board or light desserts. At its best: now to 2016. \$31.00. 375ml. 15.5%. Sept 2013.			
	La Ciboise Luberon 2012	Rhône	88	4 Stars
	It's youthful and nicely lifted on the nose displaying blueberry, dark plum, floral and subtle spice aromas. The palate is juicy and vibrant with youthful charm and smooth texture. A lovely medium-bodied red with silky mouthfeel. At its best: now to 2017. \$21.00. 14%. Screw cap. Sept 2013.			
	Belleruche Côtes du Rhône 2011	Rhône	88	4 Stars
	Soothing and smooth, this likable red shows ripe flavours of blackberry and plum with appealing savoury complexity. It's supple and generous with no hard edges. Exactly what you'd expect from a quality Côtes du Rhône. At its best: now to 2017. \$26.00. 14%. Screw cap. Sept 2013.			
	Les Meysonniers Crozes-Hermitage 2011	Rhône	91	4.5 Stars
It's beautifully perfumed on the nose showing aromas of black plum, blueberry, black olive and floral. The palate displays lovely focus and fine texture with plenty of polished tannins providing excellent structure to this classic syrah. At its best: now to 2018. \$43.00. 13%. Natural cork. Sept 2013.				
Chard Farm	Riesling 2010	Central Otago	91	4.5 Stars
	This is a delightful drink. Delicate aromas of lemon, mandarin, white peach and a hint of flint on the nose. The palate is juicy and rounded with fine texture and subtle sweetness, supported by beautifully integrated acidity. Youthful yet it's just starting to show some bottle matured complexity. Later picked grapes (no botrytis) from their Viper Vineyard were used for this stylish riesling. At its best: now to 2020. Sept 2013.			
	Gewürztraminer 2010	Central Otago	91	4.5 Stars
	The wine shows all the classic flavours of the variety in an elegant frame. Lovely floral, spice and tropical fruit aromas on the nose. The palate is succulent and richly textured, while remaining poised and refined. It's linear yet generous; silky and flowing. At its best: now to 2017. Sept 2013.			
Cheviot Vineyard	Dry Riesling 2011	Cheviot, North Canterbury	90	4.5 Stars
	This is fabulous drinking. Perfumed and engaging, the bouquet shows mandarin, lemon zest, floral and stone fruit aromas, which lead to a juicy, lively palate filled with delicious flavours. A brilliant dry expression with a long, refreshing finish. At its best: now to 2016. \$20.00. Limited availability. 12%. Screw cap. Sept 2013.			
	Classic Riesling 2011	Cheviot	91	4.5 Stars
	This is immediate and immensely attractive on the nose with mandarin, peach, floral and a hint of tropical fruit aromas. The palate is concentrated and succulent with whispering sweetness, perfectly balanced by bright acidity. It's long, flowing and very appealing. At its best: now to 2020. \$20.00. Limited availability. 11%. Screw cap. Sept 2013.			
Chocoholic	Pinotage 2013	South Africa	90	4.5 Stars
This is packed with ripe black/blueberry, dark plum, vanilla and cocoa characters on the nose. The palate is sweetly flavoured and richly textured with excellent intensity, leading to a gorgeous supple finish. A real smooth operator. At its best: now to 2017. \$19.00. NZ Distributor: Sanz Global. Feb 2014.				
Chocolate Box	Shiraz 2012	Barossa	93	5 Stars
Deeply coloured and deeply satisfying, this opulent shiraz shows lifted aromas of blackberry, dark plum, cedar and mint chocolate. The palate is rich and rounded with excellent fruit weight, beautifully supported by velvety texture and sweet tannins. At its best: now to 2018. \$25.00. Moderate availability. NZ Distributor: Sanz Global. Feb 2014.				
Cicada	Gewürztraminer 2013	Marlborough	93	5 Stars
The bouquet is gloriously perfumed displaying tropical fruit, floral, spice and subtle Turkish Delight aromas, leading to a succulent palate that's full flavoured and richly textured, beautifully supported by whispering sweetness and gentle acidity. It's superbly long and satisfying. At its best: now to 2017. \$23.00. Moderate availability. Dec 2013.				
Clearwater Cove	Merlot 2013	East Coast	86	4 Stars
A youthful charmer, the wine shows lovely ripe plum, blueberry and floral aromas with a touch of spice complexity on the nose. It's nicely weighted on the palate with appealing fruit intensity and supple tannins. The wine is well integrated and silky, offering great early drinking. At its best: now to 2017. \$17.00. Widely available. Jan 2014.				
Clos Henri	La Chapelle Blanc de Noir NV	Marlborough	93	5 Stars
A sumptuous wine, the opulent and complex bouquet shows citrus, apple, yeast and oatmeal characters. It's full and concentrated on the palate with outstanding richness, beautifully framed by crisp acidity. The wine is velvety and superbly long on the finish. For those who love richer style Champagne or méthode traditionnelle. \$35.00. Limited availability. www.closhenri.com. Feb 2014.				

Codorniu	Cava Clasico Brut NV	Cava	88	4 Stars	Delicate and pristine, the inviting bouquet shows citrus, apple, white peach and floral characters. It's juicy and vibrant on the palate with fine texture and a pleasing dry finish. Very likable, drinkable and refreshing, as a good Cava should be. \$24.00. Moderate availability. 11.5%. Traditional sparkling cork. NZ Distributor: Mineral. www.mineralwine.co.nz. July 2013.
	Cava Clasico Rosado NV	Cava	86	4 Stars	A delightful wine, showing lovely ripe aromas of stone fruit, citrus and floral with a hint of raspberry. The palate is lively and juicy with good mid palate weight and a smooth finish. \$24.00. Moderate availability. 12%. Traditional sparkling cork. July 2013.
Coopers Creek	Albariño "Bell-Ringer" 2013	Gisborne	93	5 Stars	This is another convincing example of the variety following from the outstanding 2012 wine. The bouquet is beautifully fragrant with floral, citrus, stone fruit and a hint of spice notes. It's juicy, refreshing and nicely rounded on the palate, well supported by bright acidity. A perfect wine to partner elegant seafood and poultry dishes. At its best: now to 2016. \$24.00. Moderate availability. Oct 2013.
	SV Marsanne "Alison" 2013	Gisborne	88	4 Stars	Lively and youthful, the elegant bouquet displays citrus, floral and white peach aromas. The palate is juicy and vibrant with delicate fruit intensity and crisp acidity, leading to a lingering, mouth-watering finish. New Zealand's first release of this variety, this looks to be another successful addition to Coopers Creek's outstanding range of wines. At its best: now to 2017. \$24.00. Moderate availability. Oct 2013.
	Huapai Rosé 2013	Auckland	90	4.5 Stars	There's plenty of vibrancy here. Lifted bouquet shows floral, raspberry, plum and citrus aromas, which lead to a juicy palate that's full of youthful flavours. This is seriously good drinking. Made from malbec grown on their home vineyard in Huapai. At its best: now to 2015. \$18.00. Widely available. Oct 2013.
Coralto	Nero d'Avola 2010	Sicilia	90	4.5 Stars	A lovely sturdy red, the bouquet shows dark plum, prune, game and dried herb characters. It's weighty and dense on the palate showing lovely richness, beautifully framed by firm tannins. This should be a fabulous partner to rich savoury dishes. At its best: now to 2016. \$25.00. Limited availability. 13.5%. Screw cap. NZ Distributor: Minka Trading. July 2013.
Coriole	Redstone Shiraz 2011	McLaren Vale	91	4.5 Stars	Richly flavoured and generously fruited, this attractive shiraz is filled with black/blueberry, dark plum and spice flavours. It's succulent and rounded, as well as velvety and lingering. Great drinking. At its best: now to 2018. \$27.00. Moderate availability. NZ Distributor: Vintners NZ. Jan 2014.
	Shiraz 2011	McLaren Vale	93	5 Stars	Deeply coloured and intensely flavoured, this gorgeous shiraz shows lifted aromas of blackberry, dark plum, chocolate and cedar on the nose. The palate is concentrated and rich with excellent fruit intensity, beautifully framed by plenty of supple tannins. Lovely density and generosity. At its best: now to 2022. \$37.00. Moderate availability. NZ Distributor: Vintners NZ. Jan 2014.
Curious	Shiraz 2013	SE Australia	91	4.5 Stars	It's impressively ripe and fragrant on the nose displaying black/blueberry, dark plum, vanilla and cocoa aromas. The palate is succulent and sumptuous with velvety texture and intense fruit flavours, leading to a super-silky finish. A real crowd-pleaser. At its best: now to 2020. \$15.00. Widely available. NZ Distributor: PW Wines. Feb 2014.
Cuvee 3000	Menganito 2012	Rueda	90	4.5 Stars	This verdejo is made for seafood. It's elegantly fragrant on the nose displaying white peach, citrus, almond and floral characters, leading to a juicy palate that's finely textured and finishes beautifully long and refreshing. Lovely balance and harmony. Modern yet classic. \$25.50. Moderate availability. NZ Distributor: St. Vincent's Cave www.stvincentscave.com. Nov 2013.
Da Vinci	Chianti 2011	Tuscany	90	4.5 Stars	This is fabulous. A great value chianti showing plenty of dark fruit flavours with subtle game and earthy mushroom complexity. It's beautifully ripe and rounded with lovely density and supple tannins. Very friendly. At its best: now to 2016. \$21.00. 13.5%. NZ Distributor: Eurovintage. Sept 2013.

Distant Land	Gewürztraminer 2013	Marlborough	93	5 Stars	Once again this label delivers a convincing example of this unique variety. Perfumed and inviting, the gorgeous bouquet shows tropical fruit, peach, floral and spice aromas, followed by a succulent palate filled with tasty flavours. It's velvety and flowing on the palate. A wonderful rendition of the variety. At its best: now to 2017. \$29.00. Limited availability. Oct 2013.
	Riesling 2011	Marlborough	91	4.5 Stars	What a delightful riesling. The fragrant bouquet shows mandarin, lime zest, apple and a hint of toasty aromas, leading to a juicy palate that's vibrant and refreshing. There's a touch of sweetness which is beautifully balanced by crisp acidity. A lovely drink. At its best: now to 2016. \$20.00. Limited availability. Oct 2013.
Double Corner	Dry Riesling 2011	Waipara Valley	87	4 Stars	A nicely developing riesling, the rich bouquet shows stone fruit, golden apple, toast and mandarin characters. It's ripe and rounded on the palate with silky texture and lovely fruit weight, leading to a lengthy, smooth finish. At its best: now to 2015. \$18.00. Limited availability. 12.5%. Screw cap. Aug 2013.
	Riesling 2011	Waipara Valley	90	4.5 Stars	A lovely medium-style riesling, the perfumed bouquet shows honey, tropical fruit, toast and potpourri notes. It's immensely appealing on the palate with excellent fruit intensity, combined with lush sweetness and refreshing acidity. The wine is generous and sumptuous with excellent balance. At its best: now to 2016. \$18.00. Limited availability. 9.2%. Screw cap. Aug 2013.
Drumsara	VVS Pinot Rosé 2013	Central Otago	88	4 Stars	A lovely flavoursome rosé, the lifted bouquet shows red cherry, peach and citrus and subtle floral notes. It's juicy and vibrant on the palate with excellent weight and fine texture, backed by refreshing acidity. The wine is lively and attractive, and crisp to the finish. At its best: now to 2016. \$28.00. Feb 2014.
Dry River	'Craighall' Riesling Amaranth 2013	Martinborough	95	5 Stars	Pure and delicate, it's almost severe at this stage, but the wine is so beautifully poised with outstanding concentration and racy acidity. Lovely elegant aromas of fresh apple, floral, lemon pith and a whiff of spice on the nose, leading to a taut palate that's juicy and finely textured with firm acidity. Beautiful, refined and very true. Hugely promising. There's subliminal sweetness but the wine is crisp dry with modest 11.5% alcohol. 'Amaranth' is a term they use for wine that they believe to have an interesting cellaring life ahead. It will certainly be interesting to see in a few years. My feeling is it will be breathtakingly good. At its best: 2018 to 2028. \$44.00. Nov 2013.
	Late Harvest Riesling 2012	Martinborough	95	5 Stars	This is sweet yet crisp; luscious yet elegant. A delightful wine, the delicately perfumed bouquet shows lemon/lime, tropical fruit, floral and a hint of honey. It's precise and linear on the palate exhibiting excellent concentration and focus with elegant sweetness (65 g/l) and racy acidity. Beautifully long and refreshing. At its best: 2015 to 2022. \$59.00. 750ml. 10.5%. Natural cork. June 2013.
	Chardonnay 2012	Martinborough	94	5 Stars	This is cracking good. The elegantly fragrant bouquet shows white peach and citrus with hints of vanilla and brioche. Youthful and most delightful. It's concentrated and focused on the palate with creamy texture, perfectly balanced by bright acidity. Lovely flow and superbly long. The wine shows firm structure as always, yet it's already charming and inviting. A lovely wine to watch its development. At its best: 2015 to 2022. \$54.00. Nov 2013.
	'Dry River' Viognier 2013	Martinborough	94	5 Stars	The lovely lifted bouquet shows stone fruit, floral and mixed spice aromas, leading to a weighty, textural palate that's concentrated and expansive. There's whispering sweetness which is perfectly balanced by the acidity providing a lovely frame and a lingering fine finish. The wine is powerful yet discreet, needing time to show its full glory. At its best: 2015 to 2020. \$47.00. Nov 2013.
	Pinot Gris 2013	Martinborough	95	5 Stars	A beautifully styled pinot gris, the elegantly fragrant bouquet shows apricot, pear, floral and subtle spice notes. The palate is concentrated and richly textured with outstanding mid palate weight, superbly framed by integrated acidity and subtle sweetness. A wine of impressive mouthfeel and roundness. It's seamless and gorgeous; luscious and delicious. At its best: 2015 to 2023. www.dryriver.co.nz. April 2014.
	Pinot Gris 2012	Martinborough	95	5 Stars	Pinot gris is indeed a classic grape variety, and can be a great white wine when made with knowledge and care. Dry River's renditions have been convincing and compelling over the years, and this latest offering is no exception. The elegant bouquet shows white peach, apricot, mandarin, floral and a hint of spice notes. It's powerful and succulent on the palate with exceptional weight and texture, brilliantly supported by subtle sweetness and bright acidity. At its best: 2014 to 2022. \$55.00. 13.5%. Natural cork. June 2013.

Dry River	Lovat Gewürztraminer 2013	Martinborough	96	5 Stars	This is exceptional. Powerful yet graceful; opulent yet poised. The breathtakingly perfumed bouquet shows yellow peach, mango, mixed spice and potpourri characters, leading to a sumptuous palate that's richly textured with subtle sweetness and refreshing acidity. Extremely long and velvety. A number of pickings over the harvest period, including a late-pick, has provided a kaleidoscope of flavours and extra dimensions to this profound wine. At its best: 2015 to 2023. April 2014.
	Lovat Gewurztraminer 2012	Martinborough	96	5 Stars	The perfume is heady and haunting, as only great gewurz can provide. The bouquet is filled with tropical fruit, peach, spice and floral notes. It's lush and opulent on the palate while remaining elegant and balanced. This explosive wine is richly textured and expansive, and seamless to the finish. At its best: now to 2022. \$44.00. 14.5%. Natural cork. June 2013.
	Pinot Noir 2012	Martinborough	96	5 Stars	This iconic label lives up to its billing. The pristine yet delicately complex bouquet shows dark cherry, plum, floral and subtle spice notes. It's concentrated and focused on the palate with fine texture and outstanding persistency. The wine is beautifully structured by abundance of polished tannins. Hugely promising. Plenty of discreet power. At its best: 2017 to 2027. April 2014.
	Pinot Noir 2011	Martinborough	97	5 Stars	This wine has a long way to go, yet it shows early charm as well, displaying dark cherry, blueberry, game and floral aromas. The palate is superbly concentrated and velvety with exceptional focus, leading to an extremely long, fine finish backed by plenty of polished tannins. Very, very impressive. At its best: 2016 to 2026. \$83.50. 13%. Natural cork. June 2013.
	Lovat Syrah 2011	Martinborough	97	5 Stars	This is certainly not Australian-looking; not quite like the French classic either although it's refined like a top Hermitage; it's actually quite New Zealand, and most definitely Dry River. It's pristine, concentrated and powerful while remaining tightly structured. A perfectly proportioned syrah, the fragrant bouquet shows dark plum, blueberry, floral and a touch of spicy oak aromas, followed by a gorgeous palate that's dense and velvety, but not heavy, and finishes exceptionally long. Wonderful harmony and balance. At its best: 2018 to 2028. \$64.00. Nov 2013.
	Craighall Tempranillo 2011	Martinborough	91	4.5 Stars	This is the first commercial release of the variety from Dry River, and it's very promising. Only 500 pinot noir vines were top grafted, so the production will be limited at this stage. The bouquet is engaging and moody, showing game, spice, leather, floral and dark fruits. It's beautifully ripe and juicy on the palate with fine texture, leading to a delicately dry finish. Beautifully perfumed and immensely appealing. At its best: now to 2020. \$59.00. Nov 2013.
El Burro	Garnacha 2012	Carinena, Spain	93	5 Stars	This is what garnacha (grenache) is about - fragrant aromas combined with silky-smooth palate. This is a wonderful expression of the variety showing dark plum, game, spice and chocolate aromas. The palate is succulent and richly flavoured with lovely mid palate weight and texture, and a velvety finish. Expansive and generous. At its best: now to 2017. \$20.00. NZ Distributor: Bennett & Deller. Oct 2013.
Elephant Hill	Viognier 2013	Hawke's Bay	94	5 Stars	The wine shows haunting, heady perfume of apricot, lychee, mango and potpourri, which lead to a sumptuous palate that's filled with gorgeous flavours. It's full, rounded and silky, and finishes superbly long and expansive. A wonderful expression of the variety exhibiting power and opulence within a perfect structure. At its best: now to 2018. \$29.00. www.elephanthill.co.nz. May 2014.
Enchanted Tree	Shiraz 2009	South Australia	91	4.5 Stars	This is a great drink for those who love ripe, friendly flavours. The wine is plump, fleshy, expressive and very easy on the palate, beautifully supported by fragrant aromas of dark plum, blueberry and vanillin oak. At its best: now to 2018. \$20.00. Widely available. Oct 2013.
Farnese	Novello 2013	Ortona, Abruzzi	90	4.5 Stars	Youthful and delightful, this immediately appealing red shows fragrant aromas of blueberry, dark plum and floral on the nose, followed by a succulent palate that's richly flavoured and silky to the finish. Well balanced and rounded, it's filled with attractive fruit flavours. A blend of montepulciano and sangiovese. At its best: now to 2017. \$22.00. Limited availability. NZ Distributor: A Touch of Italy. Feb 2014.
Flying Sheep	Gewürztraminer 2012	Hawke's Bay	90	4.5 Stars	Voluptuous and opulent, this engaging wine shows perfumed aromas of stone fruit, lychee, floral and spice, leading to a sumptuous palate that's succulent and smooth. The wine is rich and rounded, and immensely appealing. At its best: now to 2016. \$28.00. www.osawawines.com. April 2014.
Forrest	Rosé 2013	Marlborough	86	4 Stars	A good rosé like this is about easy drinkability. It's fragrant with floral, peach and red cherry aromas, followed by a fruit-expressive palate that's soft and refreshing. At its best: now to 2015. \$22.00. www.forrest.co.nz. Feb 2014.

Frizzell	Hey Jude Rosé 2013 This is fuller, richer and more flavoursome than most rosés. The bouquet is beautifully ripe showing peach, citrus, raspberry and floral characters, leading to a succulent palate that's expressive and mouth-filling. It's silky, lively and refreshing to the finish. At its best: now to 2016. Oct 2013.	Hawke's Bay	90	4.5 Stars
Grant Burge	GB 56 Shiraz 2012 It's friendly and fragrant on the nose displaying dark plum, blueberry, floral and nutty characters. The palate is ripe and rounded with attractive fruit flavours and silky texture. It's plump and very easy on the palate. At its best: now to 2017. \$19.00. NZ Distributor: Eurovintage. March 2014.	South Australia	88	4 Stars
	5th Generation Shiraz 2012 The quality of the vintage shines in this well-priced wine. A lovely expression of shiraz, the wine is filled with dark fruits and spice characters with gently infused cedary oak. It's supple and silky, succulent and expressive, and finishes beautifully long and tasty. At its best: now to 2020. \$24.00. April 2014.	Barossa	91	4.5 Stars
	Miamba Shiraz 2012 The wine shows classic Barossa generosity together with firm structure. It's intensely aromatic on the nose exhibiting dark plum, blueberry, cocoa and spicy oak characters. The palate is sumptuous and velvety with superb fruit richness, leading to an expansive supple finish. At its best: now to 2022. \$30.00. April 2014.	Barossa	93	5 Stars
Greylands Ridge	Belle Rosé 2013 An immediately appealing wine made from pinot noir free-run juice, this is a tasty rosé showing lifted aromas of stone fruit, citrus and red cherry on the nose. The palate is ripe and flavoursome with plenty of appealing flavours. The wine shows excellent balance and freshness. At its best: now to 2016. April 2014.	Central Otago	90	4.5 Stars
Greywacke	Riesling 2012 Wonderful purity and delicate intensity on the nose - lemon curd, floral, fresh apple and white peach. The palate delivers concentrated fruit and focused mid palate, beautifully supported by elegant sweetness (20 g/l) and perfectly balanced by bright acidity. Long, linear and seamless. A stunning beauty. At its best: now to 2022. \$30.00. Moderate availability. Nov 2013.	Marlborough	94	5 Stars
	Late Harvest Pinot Gris 2011 It's sweet-scented on the nose displaying marmalade, mango, floral and white honey. The palate shows beautifully sweetness (110 g/l), but it's not cloying, with wonderful intensity, framed by bright acidity. Long, fine, and very delicious. The overall balance is spot on. At its best: now to 2017. \$38.00. Moderate availability. 375 ml. Nov 2013.	Marlborough	93	5 Stars
Heart of Hearts	Shiraz 2010 It's beautifully fragrant on the nose displaying dark plum, blackberry, floral and subtle spice characters. The palate is succulent and nicely weighted with silky texture and excellent fruit intensity, leading to a lovely smooth finish. At its best: now to 2016. \$14.00. Widely available. 13.5%. Screw cap. NZ Distributor: Scenic Cellars. June 2013.	SE Australia	88	4 Stars
Henry's Drive	Pillar Box Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2010 The powerful bouquet shows cassis, blueberry, cedar, dried herb and cocoa aromas, which lead to a concentrated and richly flavoured palate. It's full, bold and glorious. A wonderful expression of the variety showing excellent intensity and structure. At its best: now to 2022. \$25.00. Widely available. NZ Distributor: Procure. Oct 2013.	Padthaway	94	5 Stars
	Dead Letter Office Shiraz 2010 The wine shows exceptional richness and power yet shows perfect harmony and balance. The bouquet shows gorgeous aromas of dark fruits, game, roasted nut and cocoa, followed by a concentrated palate loaded with velvety texture and fruit intensity. Super-smooth and meltingly delicious. At its best: now to 2024. \$30.00. Moderate availability. NZ Distributor: Procure. Oct 2013.	McLaren Vale/ Padthaway	95	5 Stars
	Pillar Box Reserve Shiraz 2010 The wine offers instant gratification yet shows potential for glorious development. It's impressively fragrant on the nose showing blackberry, spicy oak, liquorice and dark chocolate aromas, leading to a sumptuous palate that's dense and weighty, beautifully supported by sweet, rounded tannins. At its best: now to 2022. \$25.00. Oct 2013.	Padthaway	95	5 Stars
	Syrah 2012 It's gorgeously perfumed on the nose showing black/blueberry, cedar, spice and vanilla characters. The palate is succulent and concentrated with velvety texture and supple tannins. As the name suggest (syrah rather than shiraz), this is an elegant expression of the variety, although it's not short on delicious flavours. At its best: now to 2020. \$30.00. Moderate availability. April 2014.	Padthaway	93	5 Stars

Howard Park	Riesling 2013	Great Southern, WA	94	5 Stars	Pure and pristine, this is an outstanding dry riesling displaying lemon/lime zest, floral, white peach and a touch of flinty aromas. The palate is concentrated and focused with a juicy mouthfeel, leading to an extremely long, linear finish. Hugely promising. At its best: 2015 to 2025. \$34.00. NZ Distributor: Eurovintage. March 2014.
	Flint Rock Chardonnay 2012	Great Southern, WA	91	4.5 Stars	This elegant chardonnay shows apricot, citrus, oatmeal and beautifully infused vanillin oak characters on the nose. The palate is focused and finely textured with excellent fruit concentration, leading to a lingering finish. This is sleek and refined, and shows clarity as well as delicate complexity. At its best: now to 2017. \$34.00. March 2014.
	Chardonnay 2012	Great Southern, WA	95	5 Stars	It's gorgeously complex on the nose displaying yellow peach, mandarin, brioche and vanillin oak aromas. The palate is powerful and intense yet beautifully poised showing creamy texture and well-pitched acidity. It's superbly long and harmonious. A breath-taking chardonnay. At its best: now to 2022. \$53.00.
	Miamup Cabernet Sauvignon 2011	Margaret River, WA	93	5 Stars	A stylish cabernet, the beautifully fragrant bouquet shows classic aromas of cassis, dark plum and cigar with elegant cedary oak characters. It's ripe and concentrated on the palate with excellent fruit intensity and silky texture, backed by polished tannins. The wine shows lovely balance and structure, and supple enough to enjoy it now. At its best: now to 2018. \$34.00. March 2014.
	Leston Cabernet Sauvignon 2011	Margaret River, WA	95	5 Stars	A formidable cabernet, the wine shows fabulous ripeness together with firm structure. The engaging bouquet shows cassis, plum, game and cedar with a hint of dried herb characters. It's concentrated and rounded with silky mouthfeel, brilliantly framed by fine, firm tannins. This is sturdy and bold without being brash. A delectable Margaret River cabernet. At its best: 2016 to 2026. \$45.00.
	Flint Rock Shiraz 2010	Great Southern, WA	91	4.5 Stars	An attractive expression of the variety showing wonderfully ripe aromas of blackberry and raspberry with subtle game and floral. The palate is ripe and silky with excellent fruit intensity, finishing delicately dry. It's delightful and charming with plenty of appealing flavours. At its best: now to 2020. \$34.00. March 2014.
	Leston Shiraz 2011	Margaret River, WA	94	5 Stars	The wine shows impressive sophistication and top-notch fruit concentration. The bouquet exhibits beautifully ripe dark plum and blueberry with elegantly infused cedar and mint chocolate notes. It's plush and velvety on the palate with fine texture and supple tannins. At its best: now to 2025. \$45.00. March 2014.
	I Love	Shiraz 2011	Barossa Valley	91	4.5 Stars
Jimenez Landi	Bajondillo 2012	Mérida	91	4.5 Stars	A delicious modern Spanish red, the bouquet shows wonderful aromas of dark plum, blueberry, floral and subtle roasted nut on the nose, leading to a succulent palate that's both lively and silky. Pristine fruit flavours are beautifully supported by subtle savoury complexity. At its best: now to 2018. \$26.00. Moderate availability. NZ Distributor: St. Vincent's Cave www.stvincentscave.com . Nov 2013.
Johnny Q	Shiraz Viognier 2010	South Australia	93	5 Stars	The powerful shiraz has been enhanced by the addition of viognier, making the wine even more aromatic and opulent. It's filled with black/blueberry, dark plum, vanilla and floral aromas on the nose, followed by a sumptuous palate. A crowd pleaser, and this ticks all the right boxes. At its best: now to 2020. \$20.00. Widely available. NZ Distributor: Procure. Oct 2013.
	Shiraz 2010	South Australia	94	5 Stars	This is a textbook example of warm climate shiraz - blackberry, dark plum and spice flavours together with cedar and cocoa notes. The wine is full and intense on the palate, as you'd expect, with a gorgeous silky finish. At its best: now to 2020. \$20.00. Widely available. Oct 2013.
Joseph Cattin	Gewürztraminer Grand Cru Hatschbourg 2012	Alsace	94	5 Stars	This is unmistakably gewürz and gloriously attractive. The exotic bouquet shows mango, yellow peach, spice and Turkish Delight. It's concentrated and richly textured with gentle sweetness and outstanding weight, leading to an impressively long, expansive finish. An irresistible wine. At its best: now to 2020. \$42.00. Limited availability. NZ Distributor: Sanz Global. Feb 2014.

Julicher Estate	Riesling 2013	Martinborough	91	4.5 Stars	This is pristine and pure, and delightful to drink. The gently perfumed bouquet shows floral, lemon/lime and white peach aromas, followed by a focused palate filled with appealing flavours and elegant sweetness (14.8 g/l). The wine shows excellent intensity and balance, and finishes beautifully long and crisp. At its best: now to 2018. www.julicher.co.nz. Oct 2013.
	Sauvignon Blanc 2013	Martinborough	88	4 Stars	A delicately expressed sauvignon, the elegant bouquet shows lime zest, floral and herbaceous aromas, leading to a juicy palate that's lively and crisp. This is beautifully restrained and tightly structured, and should be a brilliant wine to partner fresh seafood dishes. Grapes were grown on their estate vineyard in Te Muna Road, and hand harvested and whole bunch pressed. 15% of the juice was fermented in seasoned oak barrels. At its best: now to 2017. \$18.50. Oct 2013.
	Pinot Gris 2011	Martinborough	93	5 Stars	This gorgeous pinot gris shows elegant aromas of white peach, floral, pear and a hint of vanilla on the nose, leading to a finely textured palate that's silky and refreshing. Lovely balanced and harmony. The wine is dry yet quite luscious and delicious. The juice was fermented in seasoned French oak barrels then matured on lees with regular stirring. At its best: now to 2017. \$20.00. Oct 2013.
	Chardonnay 2011	Martinborough	90	4.5 Stars	A generous and flavoursome chardonnay, the lifted bouquet shows stone fruit, citrus and gently infused vanillin oak aromas. It's concentrated and richly textured on the palate with excellent intensity, backed by beautifully pitched acidity. The wine is impressively long and expansive. At its best: now to 2016. \$24.00. Oct 2013.
	Rosé 2013	Martinborough	87	4 Stars	It's full of bright flavours - red cherry, peach, citrus and floral. Made from pinot noir, this charming rosé offers a full-flavoured palate that's juicy and lingering. A lovely dry-style. At its best: now to 2016. Oct 2013.
	99 Rows Pinot Noir 2011	Martinborough	91	4.5 Stars	Julicher Estate's 99 Rows has been one of the best second-label pinots, and this latest offering is another beauty. Beautifully perfumed on the nose with dark cherry, spice, game and subtle nutty complexity. The palate is ripe and silky, showing excellent structure and length. A beautifully proportioned pinot that flows beautifully to a lingering finish. At its best: now to 2017. \$32.00. Oct 2013.
	Pinot Noir 2011	Martinborough	94	5 Stars	The wine combines rich fruit intensity with savoury complexity, exhibiting red/black cherry, plum, game and spicy oak aromas on the nose. The palate is concentrated and velvety with superb mid palate weight and texture, wonderfully supported by plenty of polished tannins. Supple and fleshy, this is another impressive offering under this label. At its best: now to 2020. \$42.00. Oct 2013.
Kalex	Riesling 2012	Central Otago	94	5 Stars	A fabulous Mosel rendition, the gorgeous bouquet shows flint, mandarin, white peach and floral, leading to a succulent palate that's filled with delicious flavours. Medium in style and the wine is focused and structured, and finishes superbly long and refreshing. At its best: now to 2020. \$29.00. Moderate availability. 10%. Nov 2013.
La Croix de l'Ermite	Les Marches Saint Joseph 2009	Northern Rhône	90	4.5 Stars	A rich, complex red from the Saint Joseph area of the Northern Rhone, this engaging syrah shows dark plum, game and spice aromas, leading to a lovely savoury palate that's finely textured and lingers to a pleasing dry finish. A brilliant wine to partner rich meaty dishes. At its best: now to 2016. \$40.00. Limited availability. NZ Distributor: Procure. Oct 2013.
Lake Road	Gewürztraminer 2013	Gisborne	93	5 Stars	Classic perfumed aromas of gewürz - mango, lychee, floral and subtle ginger spice. It's succulent and opulent on the palate with fabulous fruit intensity, backed by rich texture and gentle acidity. Beautifully flowing and very long on the finish. Off-dry. At its best: now to 2017. \$18.00. www.lakeroadwines.co.nz. May 2014.
Le Chat Noir	Rosé 2013	Aude Valley, France	90	4.5 Stars	A rosé can be serious and delicious at the same time. This delightful example is refreshing, silky and rounded with attractive red cherry and floral characters. It's dry yet so smooth and appealing. At its best: now to 2016. \$22.00. Widely available. NZ Distributor: Procure. April 2014.
Leonardo	Chianti 2012	Tuscany	88	4 Stars	A lovely modern Chianti, the inviting bouquet shows dark plum, cherry, spice and floral aromas. It's ripe and nicely weighted on the palate with appealing fruit intensity, backed by plenty of polished tannins. It's smooth and friendly with a gentle dry finish. At its best: now to 2016. \$18.00. NZ Distributor: Eurovintage. Feb 2014.

Les Courtilles	Côtes du Rhône 2012 This is an excellent example of Côtes du Rhône. It's flavoursome, fleshy and supple with gorgeous game and dark fruit flavours. The palate is velvety with nutty complexity adding to the overall appeal. This medium-full-bodied red is so approachable and enjoyable. A blend of 80% grenache, 10% syrah and 10% mourvedre. At its best: now to 2018. \$25.00. Widely available. NZ Distributor: Procure. May 2014.	Rhône	93	5 Stars
Locharburn	Riesling 2012 Pure, pristine and delightful, the bouquet shows floral, lemon zest, stone fruit and a hint of flinty notes. It's focused and linear on the palate with whispering sweetness and juicy mouthfeel. The wine is delicate and persistent, leading to a fabulous, mouth-watering finish. At its best: now to 2020. \$25.00. Widely available. Screw cap. www.locharburnwines.co.nz. Sept 2013.	Central Otago	91	4.5 Stars
Mahurangi River	Pretty In Pink Merlot Rosé 2013 This is indeed 'pretty', displaying lifted aromas of peach, citrus, red cherry and floral. The palate is juicy and vibrant with lovely fruit intensity and subtle sweetness, nicely balanced by refreshing acidity. It's very easy on the palate. At its best: now to 2016. \$24.00. Oct 2013.	Matakana	86	4 Stars
Maori Point	Pinot Noir Rosé 2013 A lovely dry style made from ripe pinot noir, the lifted bouquet shows peach, citrus and red cherry aromas, followed by a lively palate that's beautifully weighted. It's vibrant and crisp, and persistent on the finish. At its best: now to 2016. \$26.00. Dec 2013.	Central Otago	86	4 Stars
Maretti	Barbera Nebbiolo 2012 This is a fabulous drink. The fragrant bouquet shows complex aromas of dark fruits, game, spice and roasted nuts. It's weighty and dense on the palate with lovely fruit richness and silky texture, beautifully supported by fine, firm tannins. At its best: now to 2017. \$30.00. Limited availability. NZ Distributor: Procure. Oct 2013.	Piedmont	91	4.5 Stars
Marqués de Riscal	Próximo 2010 A stylish Rioja made from tempranillo, the wine offers terrific value. The lifted bouquet shows dark fruits, game and spice with nutty complexity. It's ripe and richly flavoured on the palate with velvety texture, backed by plenty of supple tannins. A lovely wine to partner rich, flavoursome meaty dishes. At its best: now to 2018. \$21.00. Widely available. NZ Distributor: St. Vincent's Cave www.stvincentscave.com. Nov 2013.	Rioja	93	5 Stars
Marques de Tezona	Tempranillo 2012 A lovely elegant expression of the variety, the fragrant bouquet shows dark plum, game and spice characters, followed by a juicy palate that's lively and refreshing. The wine shows attractive fruit intensity backed by elegant dry tannins. A wonderful wine to partner flavoursome meaty dishes. At its best: now to 2016. \$19.00. Widely available. NZ Distributor: Procure. April 2014.	Tierra de Castilla	87	4 Stars
Marsovin	Citadella Rosé 2012 A delightful rosé showing lifted aromas of strawberry, cherry, peach and floral. It's juicy and bright with plenty of attractive flavours. Refreshing and so easy on the palate. A blend of gellewza and shiraz. At its best: now to 2015. \$20.00. Moderate availability. Screw cap. Sept 2013. NZ Distributor: La Cantina. 2013.	Maltese Islands	86	4 Stars
Matahiwi Estate	Holly Late Harvest 2013 A lovely elegant expression, the fragrant bouquet shows dried apricot, tropical fruit, honey and floral characters, leading to a succulent palate that's beautifully sweet (124 g/l) and refreshing. A blend of botrytised sauvignon blanc and riesling, the wine combines gorgeous fruit sweetness with attractive vibrancy. At its best: now to 2017. \$29.00. 375ml. Limited availability. March 2014.	Wairarapa	91	4.5 Stars
Matawhero	Church House Grüner Veltliner 2013 This is a delightful expression of the variety showing white peach, grapefruit, floral and subtle spice aromas on the nose, followed by a succulent palate that's nicely weighted and textured. Lovely balance, finishes elegantly crisp. At its best: now to 2017. \$28.00. Nov 2013.	Gisborne	91	4.5 Stars
	Church House Albariño 2013 Youthful and vibrant, this lively wine shows elegant aromas of citrus, floral and a touch of hay. The palate is juicy and racy with delicate fruit intensity, leading to a lingering crisp finish. What a fabulous wine to partner fresh seafood dishes. At its best: now to 2016. \$28.00. Nov 2013.	Gisborne	90	4.5 Stars
	Church House Arneis 2013 This is gorgeous. Superbly ripe and rounded, this richly textured wine shows loads of ripe peach and citrus flavours with hints of floral and spice. It's concentrated and silky on the palate, and finishes beautifully long and smooth. At its best: now to 2017. \$28.00. Nov 2013.	Gisborne	93	5 Stars
	Church House Chenin Blanc 2013 The wine shows wonderful varietal aromas of ripe apple, peach and citrus with floral complexity. It's finely expressed on the palate with lovely fruit weight and bright acidity, and a hint of sweetness. Lovely focus and structure, the wine should evolve beautifully to show greater richness. Very promising. At its best: now to 2019. \$27.00. Moderate availability. www.matawhero.co.nz. Jan 2014.	Gisborne	91	4.5 Stars

McGuigan	Reserve Shiraz 2012 The bouquet is immediately appealing with aromas of blackberry, dark plum and vanilla. It's velvety and fruity on the palate with nicely pitched sweet tannins providing a lovely frame. The wine is fleshy and approachable, just what you'd expect from a tasty shiraz. At its best: now to 2017. \$19.00. April 2014.	South Australia	88	4 Stars
Mondillo	Riesling 2013 Pristine and pure, the elegant bouquet shows delicate aromas of lemon/lime zest, fresh apple and white peach and a hint of flinty notes. The palate is concentrated and focused with whispering sweetness which is brilliantly balanced by racy acidity. It's beautifully expressed and superbly long on the finish. At its best: 2014 to 2020. \$28.00. Nov 2013.	Central Otago	93	5 Stars
Morse Code	Shiraz 2010 A great value shiraz showing fruit rich aromas of black/blueberry and dark plum together with spicy oak characters. The palate is succulent and generously flavoured with excellent intensity, finishing long and velvety. At its best: now to 2017. \$18.00. Widely available. 14.5% Screw cap. NZ Distributor: Procure. March 2013.	Padthaway	91	4.5 Stars
Mount Riley	Riesling 2013 Precise and pristine, this elegant beauty shows lime/lemon zest, floral and fresh apple aromas on the nose, followed by a focused, taut palate that's beautifully fruited and appealing. A lovely off-dry style with plenty of delicate flavours. At its best: now to 2018. Oct 2013.	Nelson/Marlborough	90	4.5 Stars
Mt. Difficulty	Target Gully Riesling 2013 Youthful, full of life and intensely likable. The elegantly perfumed bouquet shows pristine aromas of fresh apple, lemon/lime and floral, followed by a concentrated palate that's linear and fine with gentle sweetness (45 g/l). The finish is superbly long and engaging. At its best: now to 2025. Nov 2013.	Central Otago	95	5 Stars
Muddy Water	James Hardwick Riesling 2012 The wine has an instant appeal and it's seriously good too. It's perfumed on the nose displaying ripe citrus, peach, apple and floral aromas, leading to a concentrated palate that's succulent and intense, beautifully rounded by elegant sweetness and integrated acidity. The wine flows effortlessly to a gorgeous silky finish. At its best: now to 2022. \$28.00. Nov 2013.	Waipara Valley	94	5 Stars
Norte Sur	Tempranillo Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 Perfumed and inviting, the bouquet shows red plum, blueberry, floral and vanilla characters. It's ripe and rounded on the palate with silky texture, leading to a smooth finish. A lovely combination of two classic grapes, the wine is supple and very easy on the palate. At its best: now to 2017. \$19.00. Moderate availability. NZ Distributor: Bennett & Deller. Oct 2013.	La Mancha, Spain	90	4.5 Stars
Odyssey	Rose 2013 A flavoursome rosé, the elegantly lifted bouquet shows red cherry, peach, citrus and subtle floral lift. It's vibrant and lively on the palate with attractive fruit intensity, leading to a lingering juicy finish. A friendly wine with appealing youthful flavours. At its best: now to 2015. Feb 2014.	Marlborough	88	4 Stars
Old Coach Road	Riesling 2013 This is a great-value riesling showing lovely delicate aromas of peach, lemon zest and floral. The palate is juicy and fine with lovely fruit intensity and a lingering crisp finish. Pristine and delightful. At its best: now to 2017. \$12-\$19. Moderate availability. Screw cap. www.seifried.co.nz. Aug 2013.	Nelson	88	4 Stars
	Gewürztraminer 2013 This is surely the best-value gewürz on the market. It's beautifully fragrant with yellow peach, lychee, floral and subtle spice notes on the nose. The palate is juicy and lively with a hint of sweetness and lovely fruit definition. Varietally expressive and very appealing. At its best: now to 2016. \$12-\$19. Moderate availability. Screw cap. Aug 2013.	Nelson	90	4.5 Stars
Omihi Hills	'Waipara Selection' Viognier 2012 Beautifully ripe and fragrant, the bouquet displays yellow peach, tropical fruit, potpourri and subtle spice notes. The palate is full and richly flavoured with a silky mouthfeel. Impressive weight and harmony. A lovely expression showing the variety's opulence while remaining structured and balanced. At its best: now to 2017. \$25.00. Limited availability. Oct 2013.	Waipara/Canterbury	90	4.5 Stars
	'North Canterbury' Riesling 2013 It's elegant, concentrated and persistent. At only 10.1% alcohol, this is light on its feet displaying flint, mandarin, lime zest and fresh apple aromas on the nose. It's focused and linear on the palate with fine texture and a juicy mouthfeel, leading to a gorgeous delicate dry finish. At its best: 2014 to 2022. \$23.00. Limited availability. Oct 2013.	North Canterbury	91	4.5 Stars
Paddy Borthwick	Riesling 2012 The complex bouquet shows ripe citrus, floral, apple and a hint of honey complexity. It's juicy and vibrant on the palate with excellent focus and fine texture, beautifully supported by whispering sweetness and racy acidity. The wine is expressive and inviting, and shows plenty of attractive flavours. At its best: now to 2018. \$22.00. Moderate availability. March 2014.	Wairarapa	90	4.5 Stars

Palliser Estate	Méthode Traditionnelle 2008	Martinborough	94	5 Stars	The wine shows wonderful aromas of yeast, almond, citrus and floral characters. The powerful palate is concentrated and richly textured, and is beautifully structured by bright acidity. Made from 50/50 chardonnay and pinot noir, this is a multi-layered wine matured on lees for about three years. Fabulous drinking. At its best: now to 2020. \$49.00. Oct 2013.
Parnasse	Cabernet Sauvignon 2012	Pays d'Oc	88	4 Stars	Youthful and beautifully fruited, this modern cabernet from southern France displays dark plum, cassis and nutty characters on the nose, followed by a medium-full-bodied palate that's silky and succulent. Gently dry and long on the finish. At its best: now to 2017. \$20.00. Widely available. NZ Distributor: Procure. Oct 2013.
	Cabernet Sauvignon 2012	Pays d'Oc	88	4 Stars	Youthful and beautifully fruited, this modern cabernet from southern France displays dark plum, cassis and nutty characters on the nose, followed by a medium-full-bodied palate that's silky and succulent. Gently dry and long on the finish. At its best: now to 2017. \$20.00. Widely available. NZ Distributor: Procure. Oct 2013.
	Syrah 2012	Pays d'Oc	90	4.5 Stars	It's beautifully fragrant on the nose displaying blueberry, dark plum, floral and subtle spice characters, leading to a nicely weighted palate filled with delightful fruit flavours. The wine is elegant and pristine, and varietal expressive. At its best: now to 2017. \$20.00. Widely available. Oct 2013.
Partisan	"White Label" Shiraz 2012	McLaren Vale	93	5 Stars	A deeply coloured beauty, the engaging bouquet shows blackberry, dark plum, game and spicy oak aromas, followed by a powerful palate that's concentrated and richly textured. The wine shows wonderful fruit purity, backed by plenty of supple tannins. Sumptuous and very tasty. At its best: now to 2020. \$18.00. Limited availability. NZ Distributor: Working Title Wine Co. March 2014.
	"Trench Coat" 2012	McLaren Vale	93	5 Stars	This is an immensely appealing Southern Rhône blend of grenache/shiraz/mourvedre. The perfumed bouquet shows dark plum, blueberry, game and cedary oak characters. It's succulent and supple on the palate with excellent fruit richness, backed by silky tannins. At its best: now to 2019. \$20.00. Limited availability. March 2014.
	"By Jove" Tempranillo 2011	McLaren Vale	90	4.5 Stars	It's beautifully perfumed on the nose showing dark plum, game, spice and nutty characters. The palate is sweetly flavoured with excellent intensity and texture, leading to a lingering silky finish. A most agreeable expression of the variety displaying tempranillo's supple mouthfeel. At its best: now to 2016. \$20.00. Limited availability. March 2014.
Pedro Pasion	Tempranillo Merlot 2012	Navarra, Spain	90	4.5 Stars	This is seriously good for a well-priced Spanish red. The bouquet is fragrant showing dark plum, blueberry, spice and subtle game characters, leading to a succulent palate that's silky and lingering. Tannins are supple and balanced. A wonderful combination of two grapes. At its best: now to 2017. \$15.00 - \$17.50. NZ Distributor: St. Vincent's Cave www.stvincentscave.com . Nov 2013.
Perrin	Côtes du Ventoux 2013	Rhone	88	4 Stars	Made by the famous Perrin family, this wine shows warmth and generosity of the southern Rhone in an elegant frame with dark fruits and floral, and a pinch of spice. The palate is pristine and lively with lovely fruit richness, leading to a lingering silky finish. Ventoux is about approachability, and this wine certainly delivers that brilliantly. At its best: now to 2017. \$23.00. Moderate availability. NZ Distributor: Vintners NZ. May 2014.
Pillar Box Red	Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot 2010	Padthaway	93	5 Stars	It's powerful and fragrant on the nose displaying gorgeous aromas of blackberry, dark plum, cocoa and subtle spice. The palate is full and dense, but not too heavy, with excellent richness and texture, leading to a sumptuous finish, backed by plenty of polished tannins. At its best: now to 2020. \$20.00. Widely available. 14.5% Screw cap. NZ Distributor: Procure. March 2013.
Quarter Acre	Viognier 2013	Hawke's Bay	93	5 Stars	Rich and powerful, and upfront and delicious. The beautifully perfumed bouquet shows apricot, pineapple, potpourri and floral aromas. It's concentrated and richly textured on the palate with excellent fruit weight, perfectly framed by gentle acidity. Wonderful fruit purity and intensity. At its best: now to 2017. \$35.00. Moderate availability. www.rmwwines.co.nz . April 2014.

Poppies Martinborough	Rosé 2013	Martinborough	90	4.5 Stars	A delightful rosé made from pinot. It's bone-dry but so charming and silky, displaying delicate aromas of floral, red cherry and citrus. The palate is pristine and bright with elegant fruit intensity, beautifully framed by crisp acidity. A fabulous wine to sip, or partner it with summer nibbles. At its best: now to 2016. \$35.00. Nov 2013.
	Late Harvest Riesling 2013	Martinborough	94	5 Stars	What a charmer. It's immensely appealing on the nose displaying mandarin, lemon zest, mango and floral aromas, leading to a delicious palate that shows elegant sweetness (40 g/l), perfectly balanced by the classic riesling acidity. The wine is concentrated, finely textured and beautifully flowing to a super-long finish. Irresistible already and will only get better with time. At its best: now to 2022. \$45.00. Nov 2013.
	Sauvignon Blanc 2013	Martinborough	93	5 Stars	This is so different from the typical punchy sauvignon, you'd think it's made from another variety. Yet, the wine exhibits classic varietal vibrancy and liveliness with a touch of dill, rather than excessive herbaceousness, beautifully supported by fragrant lemon pith and flinty aromas. The palate is focused and linear, filled with elegant fruit intensity and bright acidity, leading to a lingering crisp finish. It's racy and seamless at the same time. A true food-wine. At its best: now to 2020. \$30.00. Nov 2013.
	Pinot Gris 2013	Martinborough	93	5 Stars	A gorgeous drink. The fragrant bouquet shows pristine aromas of white peach, floral and pear, which lead to a succulent palate that exhibits generous volume and weight, plus subtle sweetness, all beautifully wrapped in refreshing acidity. Lovely balance and intensity. At its best: now to 2018. \$40.00. Nov 2013.
	Pinot Noir 2012	Martinborough	95	5 Stars	Poppies Martinborough may be a new venture, but this stunning pinot is made from 30-year-old vines. The fabulous bouquet shows perfumed aromas of red/black cherry, floral and a hint of spice. It's concentrated and finely textured on the palate with elegant mid palate weight that builds to a magnificent, expansive finish. There's subliminal spicy oak infusion but the fruit is the star here. Old vines, great vineyard work and diligent winemaking. Hugely promising. At its best: 2015 to 2025. \$55.00. Nov 2013.
Rapaura Springs	Reserve Verdelho 2012	Marlborough	90	4.5 Stars	A barrel fermented expression, it's like a rich chardonnay displaying complex aromas of yellow peach, mango, citrus and vanillin oak characters. The full-bodied palate is richly textured with superb intensity, beautifully framed by refreshing acidity. The wine offers loads of tasty flavours. At its best: now to 2017. \$23.00. Limited availability. 14%. Screw cap. Sept 2013.
Richmond Plains	Riesling 2012	Nelson	90	4.5 Stars	Youthful and perfumed, the gorgeous bouquet shows mandarin, white peach and floral characters. It's ripe and beautifully weighted on the palate with a juicy mouthfeel and bright acidity, leading to a lovely refreshing finish. An immensely appealing off-dry riesling. At its best: now to 2018. \$20.00. Widely available. 12.5%. Screw cap. www.richmondplains.co.nz. Sept 2013.
	Blanc de Noir 2013	Nelson	90	4.5 Stars	This is always a delightful drink, and this latest offering is another beauty, displaying elegant aromas of stone fruit, citrus and floral. The palate is juicy and lively with nicely pitched acidity, leading to a lingering crisp finish. Very smooth and rounded, and immediately appealing. Made from hand-picked pinot noir grapes. At its best: now to 2016. \$23.00. Certified organic & biodynamic. Nov 2013.
	Monarch Rosé 2013	Nelson	90	4.5 Stars	It's juicy and lively as good rosé should, offering delightful flavours of cherry, stone fruit and floral, together with excellent vibrancy. It's long, refreshing and vibrant. Made from hand-picked pinot noir grapes. At its best: now to 2016. \$20.00. Certified Organic. Dec 2013.
	Riesling 2012	Nelson	93	5 Stars	The wine shows gorgeous lifted aromas of lemon/lime, white peach and floral with a hint of flinty notes. It's juicy and lively on the palate with whispering sweetness and bright acidity, and finishes superbly long and refreshing. It's just starting to show appealing toasty complexity. At its best: now to 2020. \$22.00. Certified organic. May 2014.
Roaring Meg	Riesling 2013	Central Otago	93	5 Stars	Lovely fragrant aromas of apple, mandarin and floral. The palate is vibrant and juicy with excellent fruit intensity. There's subtle sweetness which is brilliantly framed by bright acidity. At its best: now to 2018. Nov 2013.

Riverby	Grüner Veltliner 2013	Marlborough	91	4.5 Stars	A wonderful expression of the variety, the fragrant bouquet shows white peach, grapefruit, floral and subtle spice aromas, followed by a focused palate that's nicely weighted and finely textured. The wine is expressive and flavoursome, and finishes beautifully long and crisp. At its best: now to 2017. \$23.00. Moderate availability. Dec 2013.
	Noble Sauvignon Blanc Semillon 2012	Marlborough	93	5 Stars	A stylish sweet wine, the perfumed bouquet shows marmalade, honey, spice and subtle herbal characters. It's sweet, silky and delightful on the palate with excellent mid palate weight and bright acidity, providing superb structure and length. The wine is not as sweet as other top-notch examples, but it's perfectly framed and proportioned. The finish is lingering and refreshing. At its best: now to 2018. \$35.00. 375 ml. Moderate availability. Dec 2013.
	Noble Riesling 2012	Marlborough	95	5 Stars	It's powerful and unctuous while remaining beautifully poised and balanced with a fabulous refreshing finish. The bouquet shows gorgeous aromas honey, dried apricot, marmalade and floral, which lead to a sumptuous palate filled with sweet delicious flavours. Every year this label delivers stunning richness and flavours. At its best: now to 2020. \$35.00. Moderate availability. 375 ml. Dec 2013.
Rock Ferry	Blanc de Blancs 2009	Marlborough	94	5 Stars	Complex, stylish and irresistible. The engaging bouquet shows stone fruit, citrus, brioche and yeasty aromas, leading to a concentrated palate that's richly textured and expansive. This is starting to show divine bottle-matured characters, adding even more deliciousness. At its best: now to 2016. \$39.00. Certified organic. March 2014.
	Blanc de Blancs 2008	Marlborough	93	5 Stars	This is all chardonnay and all class. The fragrant and complex bouquet shows citrus, floral, yeast and subtle nutty characters. It's concentrated and richly textured on the palate with superb weight, leading to a gloriously long, expansive finish. A richer style and very impressive. At its best: now to 2016. \$39.00. 13%. Traditional sparkling cork. Sept 2013.
	Riesling 2012	Marlborough	88	4 Stars	An elegant beauty, this youthful riesling exhibits lemon/lime zest, floral and apple aromas on the nose. The palate is taut and racy with excellent focus and fine texture, finishing delicately long and crisp. This should evolve gracefully. At its best: now to 2020. \$29.00. 12%. Screw cap. Certified organic. Sept 2013.
	Cawte's Cave Riesling 2013	Central Otago	93	5 Stars	A beautifully expressed elegant riesling, the youthful bouquet shows grapefruit, white peach, flint and fresh apple notes. The palate is taut and racy with excellent fruit definition, leading to an impressively long crisp finish. At its best: 2014 to 2022. Certified organic. Oct 2013.
	Trig Hill Vineyard Riesling 2012	Central Otago	94	5 Stars	From their vineyard in the Bendigo district, this is an exquisite expression of the variety. It's pristine and fragrant on the nose displaying white peach, lemon/lime zest, floral and a touch of flinty aromas. The palate is focused and tightly structured with whispering sweetness and fine texture, finishing elegantly dry. Mouth-watering and gorgeous already. At its best: now to 2022. \$35.00. Certified organic. www.rockferry.co.nz. March 2014.
	Botrytised Riesling 2013	New Zealand	93	5 Stars	A fabulous sweet wine, the perfumed bouquet shows marmalade, dried apricot, honey and potpourri characters. It's intensely delicious on the palate with luscious sweetness, countered by bright acidity. The wine is rich and velvety, and superbly long on the finish. At its best: now to 2020. \$29.00. 375ml. Certified organic. March 2014.
Rockfield Road	Rosé 2013	Hawke's Bay	90	4.5 Stars	This is generously flavoured rosé displaying red cherry, plum, peach and floral aromas on the nose, followed by a succulent palate that's nicely weighted and silky. The wine shows elegant fruit intensity with a refreshing finish. At its best: now to 2015. \$20.00. Limited availability. Feb 2014.
Sandalford	Shiraz 2012	Margaret River	90	4.5 Stars	This is an impressively ripe and firmly structured shiraz, displaying fragrant aromas of dark plum, game, spice and roasted nuts. The palate is dense and weighty with excellent fruit richness, backed by sturdy tannins. Bold and engaging. At its best: now to 2020. \$23.00. April 2014.
Shaky Bridge	Pioneer Series Gewürztraminer 2012	Central Otago	86	4 Stars	The bouquet shows lovely rich aromas of yellow peach, tropical fruit, apple and floral, leading to a opulent palate that's fruit expressive and richly textured. Silky and rounded, the wine shows plenty of attractive flavours. At its best: now to 2016. \$20.00. www.shakybridge.co.nz. Jan 2014.

Seifried	Riesling 2013	Nelson	91	4.5 Stars	Youthful and very promising, the lovely perfumed nose shows mandarin, peach, lemon zest and floral. It's succulent and beautifully weighted on the palate with whispering sweetness perfectly balanced by the bright acidity. Mouth-watering and very appealing. It will only get better with time. At its best: now to 2020. \$16-\$25. Limited availability. 12%. Screw cap. www.seifried.co.nz. Aug 2013.
	Gewürztraminer 2013	Nelson	93	5 Stars	Seifried Estate is one of a few masters of this fickle grape. This latest offering from the outstanding 2013 vintage displays classic aromas of tropical fruit, peach, floral and spice. It's richly flavoured and richly textured on the palate with excellent weight and intensity. Pristine yet complex and expressive. At its best: now to 2017. \$16-\$25. Widely available. 14%. Screw cap. Aug 2013.
	Winemakers Collection Gewürztraminer 2013	Nelson	94	5 Stars	It's unctuous and sumptuous, and youthful and promising. The bouquet is filled with heady perfume of tropical fruit, peach, Turkish Delight and a hint of honey. It's powerful and concentrated on the palate with a hint of sweetness and velvety texture, leading to a superbly long, refreshing finish. Beautifully structured and poised. At its best: now to 2019. \$29-\$33. 13.5%. Screw cap. Aug 2013.
	Winemakers Collection "Sweet Agnes" Riesling 2013	Nelson	94	5 Stars	This label never disappoints. This is tighter and more focused than previous years, showing wonderful aromas of marmalade, stone fruit, mango and honey. The lusciously sweet palate (165 g/l) is perfectly balanced by the racy acidity. Lovely clarity and intensity. Will develop magnificently. At its best: now to 2020. \$29-\$33. Moderate availability. 375 ml. 10.5%. Screw cap. Aug 2013.
Shot In The Dark	Shiraz Petite Sirah 2012	SE Australia	93	5 Stars	This is bold and flavoursome, showing classic shiraz fruit intensity with subtle savoury/game complexity from petite sirah (durif). Blackberry, plum, dark chocolate and nutty flavours combined with silky, seductive mouthfeel make this an immensely appealing red for any occasion. At its best: now to 2020. \$18.00. Widely available. NZ Distributor: Procure. Oct 2013.
Sileni	Estate Selection 'The Circle' Semillon 2010	Hawke's Bay	94	5 Stars	Semillon may not be on everyone's lips, but Sileni has been producing excellent examples for years. And this 2010 is a magnificent wine. It's toasty and waxy with lemon pith and floral on the nose, followed by a beautifully weighted palate that's richly textured and superbly structured. 50% of the juice was fermented in old barrels, enhancing the wine's gorgeous complexity and harmony. At its best: now to 2018. \$25.00. Nov 2013.
	Cellar Selection Cabernet Franc Rosé 2013	Hawke's Bay	91	4.5 Stars	The youthful bouquet shows red cherry, raspberry and peach aromas, followed by a juicy, vibrant palate. It's refreshing and lively with bright fruit flavours - exactly what you want from a good rosé. At its best: now to 2015. \$20.00. Nov 2013.
Soho	White Collection Rosé 2013	Waiheke Island	87	4 Stars	This is a lovely, refreshing rosé showing fragrant aromas of red cherry, raspberry, citrus and floral. The palate is lively and juicy with excellent intensity, leading to a lingering succulent finish. It's not sweet and blowsy, it's crisp and vibrant with tasty flavours. At its best: now to 2016. \$23.00. 12.6%. Screw cap. July 2013.
	Westwood Rosé 2013	Waiheke Island	90	4.5 Stars	A serious rosé but it's so easy on the palate showing red cherry, plum, floral and citrus aromas. It's beautifully weighted and textured with perfectly pitched acidity, making this a delightful drink and a wonderful food partner. At its best: now to 2016. \$26.00. 13%. Screw cap. www.sohowineco.com. July 2013.
	Maren Riesling 2013	Marlborough	91	4.5 Stars	A lovely youthful riesling with fabulous clarity, it's pristine and delicate on the nose showing lemon/lime, white stone fruit, floral and mandarin aromas. It's focused and linear on the palate with a juicy mouthfeel and refreshing acidity. At its best: now to 2020. \$27.00. 12%. Screw cap. Aug 2013.
Spade Oak	Heart of Gold Albariño 2013	Gisborne	87	4 Stars	Refreshing and crisp in style, this youthful wine shows delicate aromas of lemon/lime, white peach and a hint of hay on the nose. The palate is juicy and lively with gentle weight and bright acidity. It's pristine and elegant. At its best: now to 2016. \$23.00. www.spadeoak.co.nz. Dec 2013.
Spinyback	Grüner Veltliner 2013	Nelson	87	4 Stars	This is a lovely refreshing expression of the variety showing pristine aromas of white peach, lemon/lime, floral and a hint of white pepper. The palate is juicy and lively with excellent intensity and a lingering succulent finish. Well-balanced and very appealing. At its best: now to 2016. Screw cap. Aug 2013.

Spinyback	Riesling 2013	Nelson	88	4 Stars	It's wonderfully aromatic on the nose displaying mandarin, peach and floral characters, leading to a beautifully ripe and vibrant palate with whispering sweetness and a fabulous crisp finish. A young riesling yet it's very approachable and friendly with plenty of tasty flavours. At its best: now to 2017. Screw cap. Aug 2013.
	Riesling 2013	Marlborough	91	4.5 Stars	A lovely delicate riesling, the elegant bouquet shows ripe citrus, white peach and floral aromas with a hint of spice notes. It's juicy and tightly structured on the palate with excellent focus, beautifully supported by subtle sweetness and racy acidity. At its best: now to 2017. \$13.00. Moderate availability. Feb 2014.
Spring Creek	Riesling 2011	Marlborough	93	5 Stars	This is fabulous. The wine is starting to show bottle matured complexity together with pristine youthful fruit flavours. The elegantly perfumed bouquet shows citrus, peach, apple and a touch of toasty characters, leading to a juicy palate that's focused and lively with a hint of sweetness which is perfectly balanced by well-integrated acidity. Amazing value for money. At its best: now to 2016. \$13.00. Moderate availability. www.springcreekestate.co.nz. Feb 2014.
	Riesling 2013	Marlborough	91	4.5 Stars	A glorious sweet wine, the complex bouquet shows marmalade, honey, citrus and a hint of dill aromas, leading to an opulent palate that's gorgeous sweet (205 g/l) and richly textured. A concentrated wine showing superb intensity and balance. Made from botrytised sauvignon blanc grapes grown on their estate vineyard in the Awatere Valley. At its best: now to 2018. \$28.00. 375ml. Nov 2013.
Stanley Estates	Noble Harvest 2013	Marlborough	93	5 Stars	A single vineyard wine from the Awatere Valley, this is a delicate expression showing citrus, apple and flinty aromas, leading to a taut and racy palate that's finely textured and lingering. Beautifully weighted and linear. The textural nature of the wine should go brilliantly with elegant seafood dishes. At its best: now to 2017. \$23.00. Moderate availability. www.stanleyestates.co.nz. Nov 2013.
	Albariño 2013	Marlborough	91	4.5 Stars	This is delicate, refreshing and very attractive. The elegantly fragrant bouquet shows citrus and white peach aromas with subtle yeasty complexity. It's finely textured and silky on the palate, and finishes beautifully long and delightful. The wine shows wonderful poise and harmony. At its best: now to 2017. \$40.00. Limited availability. www.summerhouse.co.nz. April 2014.
Summerhouse	Blanc de Blancs 2010	Marlborough	91	4.5 Stars	A lovely fruity and spicy red, the fragrant bouquet shows dark plum, blueberry, floral and a hint of game characters. It's ripe and medium-full on the palate with elegant density and chalky tannins providing excellent structure and length. Ideally suited to partner flavoursome meaty dishes. At its best: now to 2018. 13.5%. Natural cork. NZ Distributor: Eurovintage. Sept 2013.
Symington	Altano Tinto 2011	Douro, Portugal	88	4 Stars	This is fuller and richer than most rosés, displaying fabulous aromas of red cherry, stone fruit, spice and floral. The palate is concentrated and beautifully textured with a lingering dry finish. Superbly structured, this is a seriously good food wine. At its best: now to 2016. \$30.00. Moderate availability. www.rmwiners.co.nz. Nov 2013.
Te Awanga Estate	Merlot Rosé 2013	Hawke's Bay	93	5 Stars	It's impressively aromatic on the nose, showing mango, peach, floral and spice aromas, followed by a succulent palate that's richly textured and expansive. Silky, rounded and very long, and very attractive. A wonderful rendition of the variety. At its best: now to 2017. \$30.00. Moderate availability. Nov 2013.
	Gewürztraminer 2013	Hawke's Bay	91	4.5 Stars	A lovely generous style, the richly fragrant bouquet shows mango, yellow peach, citrus and potpourri characters. It's succulent and sumptuous on the palate with a hint of sweetness which is perfectly balanced by well-integrated acidity. At its best: now to 2017. \$20.00. Widely available. 12.5%. Screw cap. In conversion to organic. Sept 2013.
Te Mania	Riesling 2012	Nelson	91	4.5 Stars	Lovely fragrance on the nose - floral, peach, citrus and a hint of red cherry. The palate is charming and juicy with lovely fruit intensity, backed by refreshing acidity. Lingering and very friendly. At its best: now to 2016. \$21.00. www.temaniawines.co.nz. Nov 2013.
	Pinot Noir Rosé 2013	Nelson	88	4 Stars	It's beautifully fragrant on the nose displaying peach, mango, citrus and floral aromas. The palate is elegantly sweet with bright acidity, which provides excellent structure and freshness. A delightful sweet wine that's not cloying. At its best: now to 2017. \$25.00. 375 ml. Nov 2013.
	Koha Ice Riesling 2013	Nelson	90	4.5 Stars	

Te Mania	Riesling 2013	Nelson	93	5 Stars
	A lovely combination of citrus and tropical fruit flavours are brilliantly framed by bright acidity, making this an immensely appealing riesling. It's vibrant, finely textured, backed by subtle sweetness and excellent fruit intensity. At its best: now to 2020. \$20.00. In conversion to organic. www.temaniawines.co.nz. May 2014.			
	Gewürztraminer 2013	Nelson	90	4.5 Stars
	This shows classic varietal perfume within an elegant structure. Fragrant and pristine, the immediately appealing bouquet shows tropical fruit, mandarin, floral and subtle mixed spice aromas, followed by a beautifully rounded and richly textured palate that's silky and lingering. At its best: now to 2017. \$22.00. May 2014.			
Te Whare Ra	Riesling "D" 2013	Marlborough	94	5 Stars
	"D" stands for dry, but it is also "D" for delightful and "D" for dangerously easy drinking. The youthful bouquet shows pure and delicate aromas of lime/lemon zest, white peach, apple and floral, leading to a finely textured palate that's racy and lingering with bright acidity. At its best: now to 2025. \$28.00. Nov 2013.			
	Riesling "M" 2013	Marlborough	95	5 Stars
	"M" for medium, yet it's brilliantly refreshing and vibrant, displaying white peach, mandarin, ripe citrus and floral characters on the nose, followed by a succulent palate that shows wonderful poise and harmony. The elegant sweetness is perfectly balanced by the acidity, making the wine seamless and crisp to the finish. At its best: now to 2023. \$28.00. Nov 2013.			
	Toru 2012	Marlborough	91	4.5 Stars
	This is seriously good drinking. Three classic varieties - gewürztraminer, riesling and pinot gris - are beautifully woven, allowing each to shine yet not obvious of any single variety. It's fragrant on the nose with stone fruit, lime, floral and spice aromas, beautifully supported by richly flavoured palate. Very long and satisfying. At its best: now to 2020. \$26.00. Nov 2013.			
	Gewürztraminer 2012	Marlborough	95	5 Stars
	Irresistible as always, and classically perfumed as always, this is a delectable wine exhibiting peach, mango, floral and spice aromas together with a richly flavoured and textured palate. Elegant sweetness make it moreish and luscious. Opulent, velvety and awesome. At its best: now to 2023. \$32.00. Nov 2013.			
Sauvignon Blanc 2012	Marlborough	91	4.5 Stars	
Pristine and delightful, the fragrant bouquet shows lifted aromas of stone fruit, feijoa and dill, leading to a concentrated and textured palate that's refreshing and lingering. A beautifully expressed sauvignon offering plenty of appealing flavours. 6% of the juice was fermented in mature barrels, which added extra dimension and layer without taking away the varietal purity. At its best: now to 2017. \$26.00. Nov 2013.				
Pinot Gris 2013	Marlborough	93	5 Stars	
Pinot gris can be sensuous and sumptuous, like this beauty. The elegantly perfumed bouquet shows peach, pear, floral and a touch of spice, which lead to a concentrated and finely textured palate that's focused and flowing. It's precise and graceful at the same time. A portion (30%) of the juice was fermented in mature barrels for added complexity. At its best: now to 2020. \$28.00. Nov 2013.				
Chardonnay 2012	Marlborough	91	4.5 Stars	
This is complex and generously flavoured while remaining elegant and stylish. Barrel fermented (in 600-litre barrels rather than the usual 225-litre barriques) characters of roasted nut and oatmeal are subtly and beautifully infused with ripe peach and citrus notes, backed by silky texture and fine acidity. A lovely elegant rendition. At its best: now to 2020. \$32.00. Nov 2013.				
Pinot Noir 2012	Marlborough	93	5 Stars	
A beautifully proportioned pinot, the attractive bouquet shows red/black cherry, floral and subtle spice aromas. It's equally appealing on the palate with excellent fruit weight and fine texture. The wine shows concentration and focus as well as poise and promise. At its best: now to 2020. \$45.00. Nov 2013.				
Telmo Rodriguez	Dehesa Gago 2012	Toro, Spain	93	5 Stars
	A stunning red from the northwest of Spain, the powerful bouquet shows dark plum, blackberry, cocoa and nutty characters, leading to a velvety, mouth-filling palate that's fleshy and gorgeous. The wine is wonderfully expressive and beautifully structured by fine/firm tannins. Made from 100% Tinta de Toro (tempranillo). At its best: now to 2018. \$23.00. Moderate availability. NZ Distributor: Vintners NZ.			
	Al Muvedre 2012	Alicante, Spain	91	4.5 Stars
	This is sweetly fragrant on the nose displaying dark plum, raspberry, floral and subtle vanilla notes. The palate is ripe, smooth and succulent with meltingly delicious fruit flavours, and finishes long and pleasingly dry. Made from monastrell, the wine offers outstanding value. At its best: now to 2016. \$20.00. Moderate availability. May 2014.			

Tempus Two	Pewter Botrytis Semillon 2011 A gorgeous wine, the lifted bouquet shows marmalade, honey and tropical fruit characters, followed by a beautifully sweet palate that's lush and delicious. Well-balanced acidity provides vibrancy to this unctuous sweet beauty. At its best: now to 2017. \$19.00. 250ml. April 2014.	Riverina	93	5 Stars
Terrace Edge	Classic Riesling 2012 It's beautifully light and elegant with delicate aromas of white peach, lemon zest and floral. The palate is precise and focused with whispering sweetness and perfectly pitched acidity. Lovely poise and flow. Very delightful and seriously good. At its best: now to 2022. \$19.50. 12.5%. Screw cap. www.terraceedge.co.nz. Aug 2013.	Waipara Valley	94	5 Stars
	Liquid Geography Riesling 2012 What a charmer. The attractive bouquet shows mandarin, ripe apple, peach and floral aromas, leading to a succulent palate filled with tasty flavours and bright acidity. The elegant sweetness adds extra appeal, and the wine finishes beautifully long and crisp. At its best: now to 2020. \$19.50. 11%. Screw cap. Aug 2013.	Waipara Valley	93	5 Stars
The Doctors'	Grüner Veltliner 2012 It's restrained and delicate on the nose showing lemon zest, floral and subtle peach/apple notes. The palate is fine and taut with silky texture and lovely mid palate weight, leading to a lengthy crisp finish. At its best: now to 2016. \$22.00. www.forrest.co.nz. Oct 2013.	Marlborough	87	4 Stars
Thorn Clarke	Sandpiper Riesling 2013 How could you not love this charming young riesling. It's elegantly fragrant on the nose displaying lemon/lime, floral and white peach aromas, followed by a juicy palate that's pristine and mouth-watering. This is classically structured while offering early appeal and drinkability. At its best: now to 2018. \$20.00. April 2014.	Eden Valley	90	4.5 Stars
	Sandpiper Shiraz 2012 This comforting red is filled with dark fruit flavours with hints of spice and cedar. It's succulent and silky on the palate showing excellent fruit richness. A deeply coloured shiraz offering all the classic Barossa flavours and smooth mouthfeel. You can't get much better than this at the price. At its best: now to 2020. \$20.00. April 2014.	Barossa	91	4.5 Stars
	Shotfire Shiraz 2012 This offers outstanding value. It's rich, full, plush and sumptuous; packed with blackberry, dark plum, chocolate and vanillin oak characters. The palate is velvety and melts in your mouth, beautifully framed by supple tannins. It's big and bold but balanced and harmonious too. At its best: now to 2025. \$26.00. NZ Distributor: Eurovintage. April 2014.	Barossa	95	5 Stars
Tiki	Pinot Noir Rosé 2012 A nicely weighted rose, the fragrant bouquet shows citrus, red cherry and floral aromas, leading to a juicy palate that's lively and crisp. The wine shows lovely fruit intensity, backed by a refreshing mouthfeel. At its best: now to end of 2014. \$20.00. Limited availability. Oct 2013.	Marlborough	86	4 Stars
Tongue in Groove	Riesling 2011 It's fabulously rich and inviting on the nose displaying mandarin, floral, peach and spice aromas. The palate is equally enchanting with outstanding concentration and texture, beautifully supported by elegant sweetness and bright acidity. It's long, seamless and irresistible. Grapes were picked late in the season with some botrytis influence. At its best: now to 2023. \$28.00. Nov 2013.	Waipara Valley	95	5 Stars
	Pinot Noir 2011 The wine is built around impressive structure of fine delicate tannins, and is filled with gorgeous red/black cherry, plum, game and spice flavours. It's focused and concentrated; fleshy and richly textured; and impressively long on the finish. This is a compelling pinot offering elegance and total seduction. At its best: now to 2020. \$45.00. tongueingroove.co.nz. Nov 2013.	Waipara Valley	95	5 Stars
Torres	Vina Esmeralda 2012 A blend of moscatel and gewürztraminer, the bouquet shows attractive fragrance of apricot, mandarin, mango and floral with subtle spice notes. It's succulent and lively on the palate with excellent fruit intensity, backed by refreshing acidity. Long and delightful. At its best: now to 2016. \$24.00. NZ Distributor: Eurovintage. Jan 2014.	Catalunya	90	4.5 Stars
	Mas La Plana Cabernet Sauvignon 2009 This is outstanding. Packed with blackberry, plum, dark chocolate, espresso and cedary oak flavours, the palate is concentrated and superbly weighted with velvety texture and a sumptuous mouthfeel. Plush and polished, and extremely long and delicious. At its best: 2014 to 2024. \$68.00. 14.5%. Sept 2013.	Penedes, Spain	95	5 Stars
	Celeste Ciranza 2010 It's sweet scented on the nose displaying dark fruits, floral, cocoa and cedary oak characters. The palate is succulent and sumptuous with lovely richness and texture, leading to a lingering supple finish. A wonderful combination of ripe fruit flavours and gamey complexity. At its best: now to 2018. \$32.00. 14%. Natural cork. NZ Distributor: Eurovintage. Sept 2013.	Ribera del Duero	91	4.5 Stars

Torres	Sangre de Toro 2012 A modern, friendly red from this famous estate, the fragrant bouquet shows dark plum, blueberry, spice and subtle nutty characters. It's ripe and smooth on the palate with attractive fruit intensity, leading to a lingering silky finish. A blend of garnacha and carinena. At its best: now to 2017. \$20.00. NZ Distributor: Eurovintage. Feb 2014.	Catalunya	88	4 Stars
Treasures	Shiraz 2010 A gorgeous shiraz, the perfumed bouquet shows blackberry, dark plum and dark chocolate aromas, leading to a sumptuous palate filled with delicious flavours. It's full, rounded and very long on the finish. At its best: now to 2020. \$25.00. Widely available. NZ Distributor: Procure. Oct 2013.	McLaren Vale	93	5 Stars
Trinity Hill	Gimblett Gravels Tempranillo 2010 This is as good as it's always been - deeply coloured and immensely delicious. The beautifully ripe bouquet shows dark plum, blueberry, floral and subtle vanillin oak aromas, leading to a powerful, succulent palate filled with gorgeous flavours. It's rounded and velvety, and finishing superbly long and sumptuous. At its best: now to 2017. Oct 2013.	Hawke's Bay	93	5 Stars
	Gimblett Gravels Viognier 2012 This reliable wine once again offers lovely apricot, tropical fruit aromas with hints of floral and spice on the nose. The palate is succulent and silky with excellent mid palate weight and well-balanced acidity. A lovely elegant expression. At its best: now to 2016. \$35.00. Widely available. Oct 2013.	Hawke's Bay	91	4.5 Stars
Two Paddocks	Riesling 2012 It's beautifully fine and delicate on the nose displaying lemon pith, white peach, floral and flinty aromas, followed by a taut, racy palate filled with pristine flavours. Very light on its feet with whispering sweetness, the wine finishes superbly long and crisp. At its best: now to 2022. \$30.00. Available from October 2013. 11.5%. Screw cap. www.twopaddocks.com. Sept 2013.	Central Otago	91	4.5 Stars
Two Rivers	Juliet Riesling 2013 Lovely delicate aromas of lime/lemon zest, floral, white peach and a hint of flinty notes. The palate is elegant and juicy with excellent concentration and fine texture. Superbly long and refreshing. This youthful riesling is beautifully structured and expressed, and shows superb potential for graceful development. At its best: 2014 to 2022. 11.5%. Screw cap. www.tworivers.co.nz. Sept 2013.	Marlborough	91	4.5 Stars
	L'île de Beauté Rosé 2013 A serious rosé yet it's immensely appealing with ripe peach, citrus and strawberry aromas followed by a lovely juicy mouthfeel. It's beautifully weighted and textured with a pleasing dry finish. Lovely to sip on its own but this has more body and structure than most, making it a great food wine. At its best: now to 2016. \$25.00. Moderate availability. 12.5%. Screw cap. Sept 2013.	Marlborough	90	4.5 Stars
Umani Ronchi	Casal di Serra Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi 2012 A good verdicchio, like this beauty, shows elegant fruit intensity together with rounded mouthfeel. It's stylish, elegant and nicely weighted, beautifully supported by delicate citrus, peach and almond flavours. The textural wine offers silky mouthfeel and a lingering finish. Very smooth and refreshing. At its best: now to 2016. \$24.00. Moderate availability. NZ Distributor: Vintners NZ. April 2014.	Marche	91	4.5 Stars
	Podere Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 2012 A popular red and you can see why. It's fruity, supple and fleshy with fine tannins, backed by silky texture and a lingering finish. The wine shows lovely pristine fruit flavours combined with elegant savoury complexity. Lovely weight and intensity. This is great drinking. At its best: now to 2016. \$20.00. Widely available. April 2014.	Abruzzo	90	4.5 Stars
	San Lorenzo Rosso Conero 2011 This is packed with dark plum and blackberry flavours with subtle game/spicy complexity. It's richly flavoured on the palate showing superb mid palate weight, beautifully framed by supple tannins. Lengthy and impressive. Grapes were sourced from Osimo and Ancona districts. 100% montepulciano. At its best: now to 2017. \$24.00. Moderate availability. April 2014.	Marche	93	5 Stars
	Cúmaro Conero Riserva 2009 A seriously good red, it's dense, meaty and chewy, and shows impressive power. The engaging bouquet shows dark fruit, game, spice and cedar characters, leading to a concentrated palate that's full and generous. The wine is showing some lovely matured flavours, and finishes long and velvety. From the Osimo district. 100% montepulciano. At its best: now to 2017. \$47.00. Moderate availability. April 2014.	Marche	94	5 Stars

Urlar	Riesling 2013	Gladstone	93	5 Stars	Stylish and mouth-watering, this youthful charmer is elegantly perfumed with lemon pith, green apple, white peach and floral aromas. The palate is fine, focused and flowing with excellent concentration and persistency. A dry expression that's sweetly appealing. At its best: now to 2023. \$25.00. www.urlar.co.nz. April 2014.
	Sauvignon Blanc 2013	Gladstone	88	4 Stars	A delicately expressed sauvignon, the elegant bouquet shows grapefruit, white peach, dill and subtle flinty aromas. It's focused and linear on the palate with pristine fruit flavours and fine texture, leading to a lingering crisp finish. A wonderful partner to elegant seafood dishes. At its best: now to 2017. \$25.00.
	Pinot Gris 2012	Gladstone	91	4.5 Stars	A restrained rendition, the subtle bouquet shows ripe citrus, apple and floral with a hint of savoury complexity. It's beautifully rounded on the palate with silky texture, well supported by bright acidity. The wine shows lovely texture and structure, without the overt fruity flavours. The wine was fermented and matured in barrels, although there's not obvious 'oaky' characters. At its best: now to 2017. \$30.00.
	Pinot Noir 2012	Gladstone	94	5 Stars	It's gloriously complex and haunting on the nose exhibiting truffle, game, red/black cherry and floral aromas. The palate is velvety, seamless and flowing. The wine is concentrated yet so fine and elegant. An exquisite and immensely appealing pinot, beautifully framed by supple tannins. Each mouthful a pure delight. At its best: now to 2022. \$39.00. April 2014.
Valli	Old Vine Riesling 2013	Central Otago	95	5 Stars	Dry riesling at its best, this outstanding expression delivers elegance and delicacy together with discreet power. The youthful bouquet shows lemon pith, white peach, floral and a hint of flinty aromas, leading to a taut and racy palate that's concentrated and finely textured. This mouth-watering riesling shows no hard edges, just loads of pristine flavours. Superbly long and very promising. Grapes were sourced from the Black Ridge vineyard in the Alexandra district. At its best: 2016 to 2023. \$30.00. www.valliwine.com.
	Waitaki Riesling 2013	Waitaki, North Otago	94	5 Stars	This is immediately appealing on the nose displaying stone fruit, lemon/lime, floral and flinty characters. The palate is equally charming with elegant sweetness which is perfectly countered by bright acidity. Beautifully integrated, the wine shows excellent fruit concentration and persistency. A wonderful partner to the dry 'Old Vine Riesling'. At its best: now to 2023. \$30.00. Dec 2013.
	Waitaki Vineyard Pinot Noir 2012	Waitaki, North Otago	94	5 Stars	This is one of the finest pinot noirs from the Waitaki Valley. The richly perfumed bouquet shows dark cherry, plum, game and spice aromas with a hint of dried herb notes. It's succulent and rounded on the palate with terrific mid palate weight, backed by plush tannins. The wine is expressive and delicious, and very long on the finish. At its best: 2015 to 2022. \$65.00. Dec 2013.
	Bendigo Vineyard Pinot Noir 2012	Central Otago	95	5 Stars	Power and opulence. This sumptuous pinot shows gorgeous aromas of dark cherry, blueberry, floral and spice, followed by a concentrated palate that's beautifully weighted and richly textured. It's stylish and luxurious, and has an extremely long, velvety finish. A lovely expression of the sub district, the wine is harmonious and mouth-filling. At its best: now to 2022. \$65.00. Dec 2013.
	Gibbston Vineyard Pinot Noir 2012	Central Otago	97	5 Stars	Beautifully refined, this elegant beauty exhibits sweetly spicy berry fruit and fragrant floral with subtly seasoned oak. It's focused and persistent; textured and structured; brilliantly supported by fine, firm tannins. The wine evolves beautifully in the glass delivering game, dried herb complexity, making it irresistible already. At its best: 2015 to 2025. \$65.00. Dec 2013.
	Bannockburn Vineyard Pinot Noir 2012	Central Otago	97	5 Stars	This is powerful and graceful; sensuous and immensely appealing. The richly perfumed bouquet shows dark cherry, blueberry, floral and cedary oak aromas, leading to a concentrated palate that's vigorous and flamboyant, while remaining firmly structured and poised. A formidable pinot displaying exuberance and sophistication. At its best: 2015 to 2025. \$65.00. Dec 2013.
Vega Barcelona	Cava Brut Seleccion NV	Spain	90	4.5 Stars	Cava is about sheer drinkability. And this beauty certainly delivers that and then some. The attractive nose shows white peach, citrus and floral with a hint of almond notes. It's refreshing and beautifully flowing on the palate with elegant fruit intensity, backed by juicy acidity. This is a seriously good Cava. \$20.00. Widely available. NZ Distributor: Bennett & Deller. Feb 2014.
Viento Aliseo	Viognier 2012	La Mancha, Spain	90	4.5 Stars	A biodynamic/organic wine, this is a gorgeous viognier from central Spain. The bouquet is fragrant showing apricot, floral and a hint of mixed spice aromas, followed by a ripe and rounded palate that's smooth and flowing. Lovely balance and harmony with modest 12.5% alcohol. A delightful drink. At its best: now to 2016. \$20.00. Moderate availability. NZ Distributor: Bennett & Deller. Oct 2013.

Vina Pomal	Rioja Crianza 2010 A classic expression, the bouquet shows ripe plum, cured meat, spice and leather characters. It's juicy and expressive on the palate with medium weight and fine texture, finishing elegantly dry. It will be lovely with savoury meaty dishes. At its best: now to 2015. \$26.00. Moderate availability. 13.5%. Natural cork. NZ Distributor: Mineral. www.mineralwine.co.nz. July 2013.	Rioja, Spain	86	4 Stars
Waimea Estate	Sauvignon Gris 2013 Very similar to sauvignon blanc, this has a shade less pungency but shows immediate appeal, just like a good savvy. It's fresh, vibrant and beautifully aromatic on the nose displaying stone fruit, lime zest, dill and floral aromas. The palate is juicy and racy with excellent fruit weight, leading to an impressively long crisp finish. At its best: now to 2016. Screw cap. Aug 2013.	Nelson	90	4.5 Stars
	Gewürztraminer 2013 This is one of the most reliable and excellent labels for this grape, and the 2013 offering is another beauty. Youthful and classically styled, the perfumed bouquet shows tropical fruit, white peach, floral and a hint of spice notes. It's succulent and rounded on the palate with a lovely silky flow. It's immensely delicious. At its best: now to 2018. Screw cap. Aug 2013.	Nelson	93	5 Stars
	Viognier 2013 Youthful and delightful, the aromatic nose displays white peach, apricot and floral characters. The palate is ripe and rounded with excellent mid palate texture, leading to a lingering smooth finish. It's pristine and focused, and should evolve beautifully. At its best: now to 2017. Screw cap. Sept 2013.	Nelson	90	4.5 Stars
	Classic Riesling 2013 A delightful charmer showing lifted aromas of white peach, lemon/lime, floral and a hint of flint. It's juicy and vibrant on the palate with lovely fruit weight and subtle sweetness, beautifully framed by crisp acidity. The finish is long, fine and very appealing. At its best: 2014 to 2023. Screw cap. www.waimeaestates.co.nz. July 2013.	Nelson	93	5 Stars
	Pinot Rosé 2013 Pretty in pink, this appealing rosé shows fragrant aromas of raspberry, red cherry, peach and floral. It's full of tasty flavours and the beautifully pitched acidity provides lovely balance and a refreshing finish. At its best: now to 2016. Screw cap. Aug 2013.	Nelson	87	4 Stars
	Trev's Red 2013 An impressively coloured red displaying inviting aromas of blue/blackberry, dark plum, floral and a hint of dried herb complexity on the nose. The palate is ripe and generous with an expansive mouthfeel, backed by finely drying tannins. Sturdy and structured, and shows plenty of friendly flavours. At its best: now to 2018. March 2014.	Nelson	91	4.5 Stars
Waipara Hills	Riesling 2012 Generous and flavoursome, the inviting bouquet shows lovely ripe aromas of mandarin, peach, pineapple and lemon zest. It's succulent and rounded on the palate with elegant sweetness, beautifully balanced by lively acidity, leading to a lengthy crisp finish. Immediately appealing. At its best: now to 2017. \$22.00. 12.5%. www.waiparahillswines.co.nz. Oct 2013.	Waipara Valley	93	5 Stars
Waipara West	Riesling 2012 This is gorgeously fragrant on the nose showing white peach, mandarin, floral and a hint of flinty notes. The palate is succulent and finely textured with elegant sweetness, beautifully balanced by crisp acidity. Long and juicy, this is light on its feet and very appealing. At its best: now to 2018. \$21.50. Limited availability. 9%. Screw cap. Aug 2013.	Waipara Valley	91	4.5 Stars
Weaver Estate	Pinot Noir Rosé 2013 This is light, refreshing and juicy. The elegantly perfumed bouquet shows peach, citrus, red cherry and floral aromas, followed by a brightly flavoured palate that's elegantly weighted with a hint of sweetness. The wine finishes pleasingly crisp. A delightful drink. At its best: now to 2015. \$20.00. Limited availability. www.weaverwines.co.nz. March 2014.	Central Otago	90	4.5 Stars
Wirra Wirra	Scrubby Rise Shiraz Cabernet Petit Verdot 2012 Grapes were sourced from McLaren Vale and Fleurieu for this attractive red. A fabulous blend showing wonderful ripe aromas of black/blueberry and dark plum with beautifully infused cedar and spice complexity. The palate is concentrated and velvety with excellent mid palate weight and texture, leading to a gorgeous supple finish. At its best: now to 2020. \$20.00. NZ Distributor: Eurovintage. April 2014.	Adelaide	90	4.5 Stars
Wither Hills	Riesling 2012 This is fine, taut and racy, displaying delicate aromas of white peach, lemon/lime zest and floral with a hint of flinty note. A youthful riesling showing superb purity and harmony. There's whispering sweetness which is brilliantly countered by the acidity, leaving the palate crisp and mouth-watering. At its best: 2014 to 2020. \$22.00. 12.5%. Oct 2013.	Marlborough	93	5 Stars