

## Yealands Estate Pinot Noir 2011

Our Yealands Estate range is a showcase of Single Estate premium wines carefully crafted to produce dramatic, intense flavours. Low rainfall, high sunshine and the harsh growing conditions of the Awatere Valley, Marlborough result in concentrated, intense varietal characters.



**Harvest date:** 4th April 2011  
**Vineyard:** 100% Seaview Vineyard  
**Residual Sugar:** 1.5g/l  
**Harvest Analysis:** Brix 24.1

**pH:** 3.7  
**Alcohol:** 13.5%  
**Total Acidity:** 6.0

### Vineyard

The growing season leading up to 2011 vintage was typical of Marlborough, with consistently dry weather, warm days and cool nights. Disease pressure was low and hard work by our vineyard team to manipulate crops to low yields has ensured quality fruit.

Our Estate Pinot Noir 2011 is a single block coming from our Seaview Vineyard in the Awatere Valley – Block S1. This block is situated on a gentle north facing, sheltered terrace. It mainly consists of Dijon Clones (777). The soils mainly consist of Loess over alluvial gravels. The unique microclimate within the block ensures low yields and warmth which consistently produces Pinot Noir with good structure and flavour.

### Winemaking

The low yielding Pinot Noir was picked at optimum ripeness. The parcels were cold macerated at 6 – 8 degrees for around 6 days before being warmed and inoculated with selected yeast. A fast, hot fermentation up to 32 degrees proceeded with regular hand plunging which has helped to craft a wine with elegance and structure.

A parcel (50%) was gently pressed off post primary fermentation into barrel for malolactic fermentation. 20% of the parcel was aged in new French oak barriques, the balance into second year French oak. The remaining parcel underwent malolactic fermentation and ageing in a small stainless steel tank.

The parcels underwent a light egg white fining, they were blended and filtered prior to bottling.

### Aroma and Palate

Notes of black cherry, violets and spice dominate the nose. The palate is full and structured, yet elegant, with flavours of luscious, dark, ripe cherry that are balanced by a fine, mineral acidity. Aging in French oak barrels has imparted a savoury, spicy note to the wine.

*Tamra Washington, Winemaker*