

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

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### **LOW VOLUME, EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY FOR MARTINBOROUGH VINTAGE**

Wine lovers will need to be in quick to enjoy this year's wines from Martinborough following a challenging, but high quality, vintage.

Wines from Martinborough Chairman John Porter said the vintage was one of the most testing in recent years because of the climatic challenges.

"The particularly cold December really affected this year's yield," Mr Porter said. "The cold weather led to low fruit set with small berries and low bunch weights.

"The upside of this is that the quality of the harvest, particularly for red varieties, is outstanding and local winemakers are excited about the potential of the crop they have to work with."

"We have seen with our pinot noir this vintage that the small berries and low bunch weights has resulted in ferments with very high skin to juice ratios, producing wines if intense colour and flavour, with good structure. It will be very interesting to watch these wines develop in barrel."

Mr Porter said that the promise of exceptional quality wines is likely to place even greater demand on the limited quantities of wine that will available. He said that while volumes were lower than expected, they were around the level of recent vintages.

"Martinborough winemakers have always favoured quality over quantity and kept production volumes low to ensure premium quality wines. The disappointment this year is that the harvest was predicted to be so much higher than it has turned out," he said.

This year, locals were joined by young winemakers from France, United States and Portugal who are increasingly adding Martinborough to their list of regions to work in to gain experience and develop their winemaking skills.

"Aspiring winemakers from Europe are increasingly being drawn to Martinborough to experience the unique wine village atmosphere and collegial approach to winemaking," Mr Porter said. "The region has a continually growing reputation as being a great place to learn how to make finely crafted, highly sought after wines."

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