

# STARBOROUGH

MARLBOROUGH - NEW ZEALAND

## STARBOROUGH PINOT GRIS 2011

### TASTING NOTE

Very pale straw colour with a pale rim, this has a full, voluminous bouquet of ripe, spiced pears and exotic florals. Off-dry to taste, this is open and very accessible on palate with mouthfilling flavours of spiced pears, honey and floral elements. The mouthfeel is soft and there is a sweetness and succulence to the fruit. The acidity is soft, contributing to an attractively balanced and harmonious expression, but there is plenty of freshness and poise.

### VITICULTURE

The fruit was sourced from two separate Starborough vineyards. 75% O'Dwyers Farm Vineyard in the heart of the Wairau Valley and 25% Starborough Terrace Vineyard located on the southern side of the Awatere River. Both these sites have complemented each other to produce an elegantly balanced and complex wine.

The yield on the two cane VSP (vertical shoot position) trained vines was closely monitored through the growing season. Targeted shoot and bunch thinning was performed to produce low yielding intensely concentrated fruit. Additional fruit thinning was done on colour development post veraison to further enhance bunch uniformity.

The two vineyards were carefully monitored during ripening and hand-picked in cool early morning conditions at peak maturity and flavour development.

### WINEMAKING

The fruit was crushed and pressed quickly at cool temperatures to retain fruit flavour and freshness. Following the settling period the clear juice was racked to stainless steel and then fermented using selected yeast at cool temperatures. A 10% portion of the juice was fermented in seasoned French oak barrels adding weight, texture and complexity to the finished wine. Fermentation was stopped at 6 g/l residual sugar. Before blending, the individual components were left on light yeast lees for three months helping build additional texture and creaminess to the palate.

The wine was bottled in August with an alcohol of 13.5%, pH 3.43 and acidity of 5.9 g/l.



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