



2007 SV HAWKES BAY VIOGNIER 'CHALK RIDGE'

Winemakers Notes

The fruit for this wine is sourced from the Chalk Ridge block just to the south of Havelock North. It is so named due to the amount of fractured limestone in the soil profile. It is a very steep vineyard and is very difficult to work (too steep for a tractor, so we had to purchase a crawler). The vineyard faces due north and is very warm during the day. We hand-harvested the Viognier in two passes (11th March and 19th March). The fruit was whole bunch pressed and commenced ferment in tank. The juice was then run off to oak (mainly three year old French) to complete fermentation and for maturation. The wine came out of oak after three months, was stabilised and bottled.

Analysis: **Alc** 14.5% **Acid** 5.0g/L **Res Sugar** 3.8g/L **pH** 3.75

Tasting Notes

- Colour:** Very pale in the glass at bottling, but we expect that this wine will pick up pale gold tints with time. Massive tears on the glass indicate a wine of considerable body and richness.
- Bouquet:** Very typical Viognier aromas of peach and apricot blossom and ripe stonefruit. Along with this there is a degree of complexity that we seldom see in New Zealand wines (a 'Frenchness'). We use the wines of Condrieu as our benchmark for this variety and aromatically at least this wine is trending in that direction.
- Palate:** This is a big rich wine. Like all good Viognier, the palate is very broad and very long. There is a strong core of fruit sweetness running all the way through the wine.

Cellaring

Viognier does not seem to require long cellaring. We expect that this wine will drink well on release and into the medium term.

Food Matches

Rich, weighty and complex it is a great match to white meats and salads. Best enjoyed young.

Suggested wine list description

A dry white wine, which exhibits typical Viognier aromas of peach and apricot blossom and ripe stone fruit. A big rich wine full of fruit sweetness delivering a long and satisfying finish.

Awards

4 ½ Stars 90 points – Wine Orbit 2008