

Pinot Noir

As the glow gets brighter on this variety in New Zealand, it's great to see wines of structure, real fruit and vibrancy emerge from the clutter of styles, many dilute and sharp, that we have seen in the recent past. These wines are released young in terms of their life-span and how they will evolve, and once released of course we drink them! But age does not weary them, just improves the best.

There is now as much Pinot Noir in our vineyards as Chardonnay, something which would have been inconceivable ten years ago but such has been the focus now the world has had a whiff of New Zealand's Pinot character. Let's celebrate with the best!

Schubert Wairarapa Pinot Noir 2002

Gutsy Pinot, the second vintage from Schubert's Taratahi vineyard, 14.5% alcohol and with a lot to say! Young, intense and hearty in its flavours, a brave bold wine to give air time and enjoy its strength and statement.



SCHUBERT WAIRARAPA PINOT NOIR 2001



WINE DETAILS: Hand picked from estate vineyard in Wairarapa – extended maceration – aged in new and seasoned French oak (60% new) for 19 months – look for dark cherries, plums, cassis, as well as hints of clove, cinnamon, star anise and chocolate.

TEAM COMMENTS: A really vibrant fruit focussed Pinot with masses of plum and chocolate flavours. There is concentration and length but the wine just needs a little longer in bottle to soften the new oak. Another excellent offering from this Martinborough winery.



SCHUBERT WINES TAKES WILLIAMS & KETTLE FRUITFED SUPPLIES TROPHY

In the recent Air New Zealand wine awards, Schubert Wines of Martinborough was awarded a gold medal for their Schubert Cabernet Sauvignon 2001 and judges also awarded the wine the Williams & Kettle Fruitfed Supplies Champion Cabernet Sauvignon Trophy. This is the first time a gold medal has been awarded in the Cabernet Sauvignon class for two years and Schubert Wines was the only gold medal winner in this class for 2003.



Chairman of judges, John Belsham says: "Many of the world's wine critics judge the best producers by determining the quality of their aged wines. If we are to ultimately 'make it' in the premium sector of the international marketplace we need to take heed of this. It was not only encouraging to see the increase in entries in the older vintage categories but to also experience the quality of many of these wines."

Winemaker Kai Schubert says their 2001 Cabernet Sauvignon was made from grapes grown at Gimlett Road in the Hawke's Bay. "The 2001 season had been very dry and we had a small late ripening, high quality crop which was hand-picked and 100% de-stemmed. Fermentation took place in stainless steel vats and maceration for three weeks, with the wine then aged in 75% new and 25% used French Oak barriques for 25 months. The wine is described as having aromas of ripe and sweet blackcurrant with spices, tobacco and cacao. It's a full-bodied wine with depth and structure backed up by massive but fully ripe tannins, and as well as winning the gold medal and trophy at the Air New Zealand Wine Awards, it has been recognised with four-stars in Cuisine and Michael Cooper's Buyers Guide."

More information about Schubert Wines can be found at www.schubert.co.nz and a full list of the award winners is available on <http://www.wineshow.co.nz>.