



Villa Maria

This Reserve Pinot Noir combines the vibrant aromatics and structure of Awatere Valley fruit with the richness and depth derived from the clay-rich soils of Wairau Valley, offering an exquisite balance.



93
Decanter



Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

Reserve Pinot Noir 2019

Marlborough, New Zealand

Region and Vineyards

The fruit for this Pinot Noir comes from **two key subregions of Marlborough**: the **Wairau Valley** and the **Awatere Valley**.

- In the **Wairau Valley**, vineyards like Rutherford and Cowley, located in the **north-facing Ben Morven Valley**, feature deep **clay-based soils**. These contribute to the wine's richness and intensity.
- The cooler **Awatere Valley**, with its **free-draining, windblown silt loess soils** near the Awatere River, imparts bright acidity and a lifted aromatic profile. Together, these distinct terroirs harmonize to produce a balanced and complex Pinot Noir.

Winemaking

The grapes were hand-harvested at optimal ripeness and underwent a meticulous winemaking process designed to preserve their character. Fermentation occurred in **French oak barriques**, with **35% new oak** and **65% seasoned barrels** used to impart structure and complexity.

The wine spent **14 months aging in French oak** to develop its velvety texture and integrate the toasty oak influence. It was then settled in tank for an additional **4 months** before bottling. With an **alcohol content of 13.5%**, a **pH of 3.64**, and a **residual sugar of 0.1 g/L**, the wine achieves a seamless balance between purity, richness, and structure.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Bright ruby red with garnet highlights.
- **Aroma**: Expressive and floral, with notes of **fresh cherries**, **dark chocolate**, and hints of **portobello mushrooms**, complemented by a subtle toasty oak character.
- **Palate**: A harmonious interplay of **juicy summer berries**, ripe cherry flavors, and a touch of dark chocolate. The wine is supported by soft, velvety tannins and a delicate earthiness, leading to a long, satisfying finish.



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Did you know?

Villa Maria was founded in **1961** by Sir George Fistonich and has since become one of New Zealand's most celebrated wineries. The Reserve range represents the pinnacle of Villa Maria's craftsmanship, highlighting premium fruit from the best vineyards in Marlborough.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Duck breast with cherry glaze:** The wine's cherry and berry notes complement the richness of the duck and the sweetness of the glaze.
- **Wild mushroom risotto:** The earthy flavors of the risotto mirror the wine's portobello mushroom and toasty oak nuances.
- **Herb-crusted lamb chops:** The velvety tannins and dark fruit profile balance the savory and herbal notes of the lamb.
- **Aged Gruyère or Comté cheese:** The wine's complexity and smooth texture pair beautifully with the nutty, rich flavors of these cheeses.



Decanter (DCT) : 93 Points (2019)

Subtle nose of red cherry and cranberry aromas with floral and mineral scents. Youthful on the palate, ripe, well-defined tannins.



Robert Parker (RP) : 92 Points (2019)

A fine effort, the 2019 Reserve Pinot Noir combines mixed black and red cherries with subtle cedar, vanilla and spice shadings. It's medium-bodied, supple and smooth in texture, with a mouthwatering finish. It's not a big, burly offering, as this wine was sometimes in the past, but a pleasantly elegant bottling to drink over the next 5-8 years.



James Suckling (JS) : 92 Points (2019)

A fragrant nose of wild strawberries, sour cherries, fresh herbs, forest floor and spice box. It's medium-bodied with fresh acidity. Round and creamy with plenty of fruit and a succulent finish. Fresh and clean. Drink or hold. Screw cap.

