Seresin

A luminous blend of four aromatic varieties, this wine balances ripe fruit intensity with refined structure, delivering a layered and elegant interpretation of Marlborough's terroir.

Chiaroscuro 2023

Marlborough, New Zealand

Region and Vineyards

Marlborough, on New Zealand's South Island, has become globally synonymous with Sauvignon Blanc, yet the region also excels with aromatic white varieties. The **Omaka Valley**, part of the Southern Valleys subregion, is particularly suited to these grapes thanks to its clay-rich soils and slightly warmer, drier conditions compared with the Wairau Plain. These soils contribute structure and texture, producing wines with more savoury and concentrated expressions.

The **Raupo Creek vineyard**, Seresin's estate in Omaka, is cultivated using organic and biodynamic principles. This holistic approach enhances soil vitality and biodiversity, creating balance in the vineyard ecosystem. Its northwest-facing slopes benefit from high sunshine hours and minimal rainfall, ensuring steady ripening. Yields are deliberately low—around 6 tonnes per hectare—leading to small, concentrated berries that form the basis of a wine both expressive and elegant.

Winemaking

The blend combines **48% Riesling, 43% Pinot Gris, 6% Viognier, and 3% Gewürztraminer**. Pinot Gris and Gewürztraminer were harvested together, followed five days later by Riesling and Viognier. After pressing and settling, the juices were blended and **co-fermented in neutral oak barrels**.

The wine rested for **eight months in barrel**, undergoing **full malolactic fermentation**. No residual sugar remains, making this a completely dry style. With no new oak used, the emphasis is on purity, texture, and varietal interplay rather than overt oak character. The finished wine achieves 13% alcohol, with bright acidity (TA 6.4 g/L) and a pH of 3.22, resulting in freshness and balance.

Alcohol :12,50 %

Composition: 48% Riesling, 43% Pinot Gris, 6% Viognier, 3% Gewürztraminer

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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Pale straw with silvery reflections, luminous and youthful.
- **Aroma:** Complex bouquet of ripe autumnal fruits, citrus blossom, exotic tropical hints, and delicate floral spice. Subtle notes of orchard fruit and lifted aromatics reveal the influence of Gewürztraminer and Viognier.
- **Palate:** Concentrated yet elegant, with layers of stone fruit, citrus, and exotic spice. Textural richness from Pinot Gris and Viognier is balanced by Riesling's precision and acidity, while Gewürztraminer contributes aromatic lift. The finish is long, focused, and delicately mineral.

Did you know?

The name **Chiaroscuro**, meaning "light and shadow" in Italian, is a tribute to founder Michael Seresin's background as a cinematographer. Just as light and shadow create depth in film, the interplay of different grape varieties creates layers of contrast and harmony in this wine.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Thai green curry with prawns** - the exotic aromatics and acidity cut through spice and coconut richness.
- **Duck breast with plum sauce** - the wine's fruit concentration and textural depth complement gamey richness and sweet-sour accents.
- **Roast pork with apple and fennel** - Riesling's freshness balances pork fat, while spice notes echo fennel.
- **Aged Comté cheese** - the wine's layered texture and subtle nuttiness make a superb match for complex alpine cheeses.

Robert Parker (RP) : 90 Points (2019)

The aromatic 2019 Chiaroscuro was barrel fermented in old French oak and is a blend of 50% Riesling, 30% Pinot Gris, 15% Gewürztraminer and 5% Viognier. Mint and lime scents enliven the nose, while the medium-bodied palate begins round and fleshy, coming back to a zesty, refreshing focus on the finish.

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