

Villa Maria

A quintessential Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc, Villa Maria's Cellar Selection 2019 offers a vibrant snapshot of coastal New Zealand's finest terroir.

VILLA MARIA
NEW ZEALAND



Alcohol :12,50 %

Composition: 100% Sauvignon Blanc

Cellar Selection Sauvignon Blanc 2019

Marlborough, New Zealand

Region and Vineyards

Marlborough, located at the northeastern tip of New Zealand's South Island, is the undisputed global reference for premium Sauvignon Blanc. Its success is rooted in a unique **combination of intense sunlight and cooling sea breezes**, which allow grapes to develop ripe tropical flavors while preserving crucial acidity.

The Villa Maria Cellar Selection Sauvignon Blanc 2019 is a **multi-parcel blend from Marlborough's two key subregions**: the warmer Wairau Valley, known for its **passionfruit and tropical intensity**, and the cooler Awatere Valley, whose longer ripening season delivers **herbaceous precision** and minerality. This careful blending of distinct terroirs enhances both aromatic range and palate complexity, offering a comprehensive expression of Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc.

Winemaking

The 2019 vintage was shaped by **ideal growing conditions**: mild spring weather, low disease pressure, and a dry harvest period. Grapes were harvested during the cool of night to protect their delicate aromatics.

Villa Maria employed **100% stainless steel fermentation**, using selected aromatic yeast strains to amplify varietal purity. The wine was then **left on fine lees** for a period to impart subtle textural depth and enhance mouthfeel without losing freshness. No oak was used, allowing the Sauvignon Blanc character to shine with unfiltered vibrancy and intensity.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Pale straw with green highlights, reflecting its youth and freshness.
- **Aroma**: A lifted bouquet of ripe passionfruit, grapefruit zest, gooseberry, and freshly cut bell pepper, underpinned by a flinty edge from the Awatere fruit.
- **Palate**: Crisp and vibrant with a juicy core of citrus and tropical fruits, balanced by lively acidity and a hint of salinity. The finish is clean, long, and mouthwatering.

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Did you know?

Villa Maria, founded in 1961 by Sir George Fistonich, was the **first New Zealand winery to become 100% family-owned and operated** from its inception. Known for its commitment to sustainability, Villa Maria has been a pioneering advocate for **organic viticulture and carbon reduction**, making it one of the most environmentally progressive producers in the Southern Hemisphere.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Fresh oysters**: The briny, mineral character of shellfish elevates the wine's crispness and citrus notes.
- **Goat cheese salad**: The wine's acidity cuts through the richness of the cheese, while herbaceous notes mirror the greens.
- **Grilled asparagus with lemon butter**: A natural match for the wine's grassy nuances and zesty profile.
- **Ceviche**: Bright, lime-cured seafood is mirrored by the Sauvignon Blanc's vibrant acidity and citrus-led palate.

91 WineEnthusiast

Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 91 Points (2019)

This is a solid example of Marlborough Sauvignon that's well-priced, easy to get your hands on, and from at great vintage. It strikes a lovely balance between fruit and herbal tones in the form of juicy lime, zingy gooseberry, crunchy snow pea and spicy green bell pepper.

90 Decanter

Decanter (DCT) : 90 Points (2019)

Herbaceous style with a green bell pepper and blackcurrant leaf nose. Lovely lifted guava, gooseberry and lemongrass flavours. Delicious and vibrant.

91 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 91 Points (2018)

This is super pungent, all-guns-blazing sauvignon with reductive notes matched to intense passion fruit and other tropical fruit. The palate has a neat core of sweet-fruit flavor, nicely played against handy acidity. Well pitched.