



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SUBJECT: Results Published from NZ Wine Rater's Tasting of Pinot Gris, Riesling and 'Other' Whites - June 2022**

**DATE: 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

Results from the latest tasting are now available at [NZWineRater.com](http://NZWineRater.com)

While over 80% of New Zealand's white wine production is Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay there are a myriad of styles from other white grapes and blends and the quality of these wines is often extremely high.

Four wines scored 96/100 'Exceptional', another 42 wines 93+/100 'Excellent' and 43 wines 90+ 'Highly-commended' so there's a wide selection for consumers to discover among the results.

Despite its lack of popularity Riesling stole the show with a very strong class in quality terms. 3 of the top 4 wines scored 96/100 (Exceptional) were Riesling and 6 of the 9 that scored 95/100. Congratulations to Framingham and Pegasus Bay who produced the top two wines from last years' tasting and did so again this year with consecutive vintages. Impressively, both wineries each had 5 different wines scoring over 94/100.

Not only did Riesling make the best wines of the tasting but also the best value wine with Mud House Waipara Valley Riesling 2021 scoring a very creditable 93/100 (Excellent) despite a modest local retail price of \$16.

Unlike last years' tasting, where Pinot Gris was a disappointing class overall, the quality this year was greatly increased.

A trio of very good vintages from 2019 to 2021 ensured lower crop levels, producing more concentrated wines plus the increased employment of more complex winemaking techniques has resulted in many rich, complex, stylish wines that compliment food.

This was epitomized by Martinborough's Escarpment Pinot Gris 2021 which scored an impressive 96/100 (Exceptional). In fact, 4 of the top 8 Pinot Gris hailed from Martinborough.

What might be the next variety to make a mark in New Zealand is a frequently asked question. High scores were awarded to isolated examples of Albariño, Chenin Blanc, Gewurztraminer, Pinot Blanc and Viognier but no one variety stood out.

A promising development was several high scores awarded to blends of different varieties such as Gewurztraminer, Grüner Veltliner & Riesling, Marsanne & Viognier etc. The quality within this class suggests promising potential for these types of wines which offer an interesting point of difference and can help engage consumers with new styles and flavours.



The next tasting will focus on Chardonnay but will also include an opportunity to evaluate new releases of all New Zealand wine varieties.

Entries are open on the website.

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