



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: Results Published from NZ Wine Rater's Tasting of NZ Red Wines, All Varieties and Blends - Aug 2022

DATE: 12th Oct 2022

For every bottle of red wine made in New Zealand, there are more than 4 bottles of white. Local white wines excel at a variety of price points, while red wine production is much more focused towards the premium end of the market.

High-quality New Zealand red wine is necessarily expensive, both in terms of economy of scale and climatic suitability. This was highlighted by the fact 75% of the wines scoring over 93/100 (Excellent) in our latest tasting have a local retail price of NZ\$50 or above.

Yet, with a trio of benevolent recent vintages in 2019-2021, the best wines are very good indeed and worth seeking out. 5 wines scored 96/100 (Exceptional) or above, all of which were made from Pinot Noir. Another 55 wines scored 93-95/100 (Excellent), a significant increase from our last tasting.

Congratulations to Escarpment Winery with the magnificent 2020 Kupe Pinot Noir topping our tasting with 97/100 and their other 4 entries scoring 96/100, 95/100 and 2x 94/100 respectively. Also, to Valli Wines, as their 4 entries scored 2x 96/100, 95/100 and 94/100.

Newcomer, Settlement Wines Pinot Noir 2020 was our best value vine of the tasting with a modest RRP of NZ\$45 for a wine scoring 96/100.

New Zealand's winegrowing regions span nearly 1,800 km, a full 10° of latitude, between the northern and southernmost vineyards and there were creditable wines from Northland, to Waitaki. No one region dominates the others.

While Pinot Noir predictably starred, and Syrah was a clear second, we tasted high-quality wines made predominantly from several different varieties including Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, Cabernet Franc, and Gamay.

In a country where mono-varietal wines are the norm, it was encouraging to see several impressive 'Meritage' blends where the exact varietal composition is tailored to both individual vineyards' merits and the growing season.

A reminder all our tastings are conducted double-blind.

Our next tasting later this month will focus on Sauvignon Blanc.

Entries are open on the website:- www.nzwinerater.com

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