



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: Results Published from NZ Wine Rater's tasting of Sauvignon Blanc – October 2022
DATE: 12th December 2022

We are pleased to announce the results from our latest tasting are now published at NZ Wine Rater.

2022 Sauvignon vintage which was New Zealand's largest harvest ever, some 20% larger than the previous most substantial in 2020 and 47% more bountiful than the minuscule 2021 and producers will be elated that they have been able to replenish extremely depleted stocks.

However, beyond the bountiful harvest, producers were challenged by the dominant La Niña weather pattern. In Marlborough, the epicentre of Sauvignon production with 90% of the nation's plantings a cool and inclement February was sorely testing before more benevolent autumn weather.

COVID-19 was also a significant challenge to harvest logistics. With borders still closed and Omicron rampant throughout the country just as harvest began the timing of picking was pivotal.

Given the challenges, this was a vintage where the most experienced, conscientious, and well-resourced producers shone. The best wines showed understated aromatic complexity and were elegantly wrought and finely balanced. A stand-out feature of this tasting was the continued refinement of complex, barrel-influenced styles that are proving to age extremely well.

It was evident from our tasting that some producers who cropped too highly produced wines with muted aromas, lacking flavour intensity and often with prominent acidity. Given the challenges of 2022, it will be important for consumers, retailers, and restaurateurs to identify the top wines to ensure they're getting quality and value.

3 wines in our latest tastings scored 96+/100 (Exceptional), while another 34 wines scored 93-95 (Excellent).

Congratulations to the team at Dog Point who produced the top wine of the tasting with their spectacular Section 94 2017. They also produced the top-equal scoring 2022 vintage Sauvignon alongside the ever-impressive Greywacke.

The best value wine in the tasting was Villa Maria Cellar Selection Sauvignon Blanc 2022 scoring an impressive 94/100 for a wine with a recommended retail price of just NZ\$18.

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