

# Mahi



Mahi, meaning 'our work, our craft', began in 2001, fulfilling a dream of ours. After 15 vintages it was time to do our own thing. With a strong focus on single-vineyard wines, and now backed up by a series of premium regional wines from Marlborough, the idea behind Mahi is to respect and promote the individuality of the various vineyards.

The Mahi symbol represents the strength, life and growth of the native New Zealand frond (fern), with the understanding that wine should never be rushed to bottle, respecting its ability to evolve naturally over time.



## 2015 Mahi Twin Valleys Chardonnay

An elegant and finely balanced wine. Ripe, concentrated flavours of citrus and nectarine fruit with barrel ferment nuttiness and a slightly creamy texture help to give nice weight and finish.

<b>Variety:</b>	Chardonnay
<b>Region:</b>	Marlborough
<b>Winegrowers:</b>	Brian Bicknell, Pat Patterson, our focussed growers and brilliant vintage staff
<b>Alcohol:</b>	13.6%
<b>Total Acidity:</b>	6.2g/l
<b>pH:</b>	3.09
<b>Residual Sugar:</b>	1.1g/L
<b>Brix at Harvest:</b>	21.4 – 23.2
<b>Harvest:</b>	Handpicked on 26 <sup>th</sup> of March to 4 <sup>th</sup> of April 2015

## Winemaking details

The aim for this Chardonnay is to retain a fresh structure rather than producing a wine that is too broad. The clone and site help with this, but also the picking decisions also work to retain acidity in the glass.

This wine comes from a small parcel in the Twin Valley Vineyard, located in the Fareham Lane area of Marlborough. The vineyard is at the western end of the Wairau Valley, at the junction with the Waihopai, and is on the top terrace. The upper terrace along the Wairau has a more complex soil, a great mixture of silt, clay and stones that give drainage but also some water-holding to help the vines through the dry periods.

Being some distance from the sea the climate is also cooler. The grapes therefore typically ripen more slowly and retain an interesting mineral character.

The vines were cropped low to ensure ripeness and palate richness. In the winery the grapes were whole-cluster pressed and the high-solids juice taken straight to French barriques for fermentation with indigenous yeast. After 15 months in oak we felt the balance was correct and took the wine from barrel. It was then aged further in tank on yeast lees prior to being racked and gently fined before bottling.

## Vintage

The 2015 vintage will be remembered as one of very low rainfall and small crops of clean, intensely flavourful berries. As with the harvest of 2014 it was an early vintage, which is what you would expect with small crops, but there were a few factors that made this one quite unique.

Firstly we had quite cool conditions through the flowering period as well as some rain on December 10 and 11, which is right in the middle of flowering. With the pollen falling to the ground this seems to have contributed to the low crops and also low bunch numbers.

