

W A I P A P A B A Y

NEW ZEALAND TASTING & SEMINAR – January 23, 2019

In January, local wine writers and trade gathered at Sonoma, California’s El Dorado Kitchen for a roundtable discussion about Waipapa Bay Wines and New Zealand wine. The comparative tasting featured four flights (grouped by varietal), including a range of producers and recent vintages to give an in-depth look at what New Zealand is offering in the mid-priced (\$10-15) and premium (\$14-20) price categories.

Wine writer and presenter Elaine Chukan Brown, whose work is regularly published on JancisRobinson.com and in Wine & Spirits Magazine (among other top wine publications), hosted the tasting seminar alongside Broadland Wineries director of winemaking and Master of Wine, Dr. Arabella Woodrow MW. Elaine opened with an overview of the history, geography, and unique climate of New Zealand’s winegrowing region: “If you think about how New Zealand is placed in the world, this is essentially the largest island viticultural region. The whole island, except for one exception [Central Otago] is maritime influenced grape growing.”

Dr. Woodrow provided additional context with the history of Waipapa Bay wines and the dedication and care that Brent and Shirley Rawstron and their team bring to the viticultural and winemaking practices to produce the four varietal wines.

Throughout the four flights – Rosé, Pinot Gris, Sauvignon Blanc, and Chardonnay – the Waipapa Bay Wines showed beautifully against the competitive set, clearly underlining that the wines belong in the conversation and support the New Zealand wine community’s notable efforts to push quality higher.

“The group as a whole seemed to have positive response,” said Brown. “I do think it is really smart that Waipapa is showing itself alongside other wines as it only strengthens their stature - it shows a sort of natural confidence in the brand.”



WAIPAPA BAY

WHAT ATTENDEES SAID...

"I thought the wines were very good and well-priced. They were in my top two for every flight!"

– Tina Caputo, Freelance writer (SevenFiftyDaily, Wine Enthusiast, San Francisco Chronicle)

"I very much enjoyed the wines of Waipapa Bay – I think they are fresh and lively and for the price point, they offer outstanding value."

– Erin Brooks, Wine Advocate

"The Waipapa wines were beautifully made and represented outstanding value ... The rosé was clean, well-balanced and remarkably long and the Pinot Gris impressed with its purity and depth of flavor."

– Michael Donohue, Back Room Wines (Napa, Calif.)

THE WINES



Flight #1: Rosé

Waipapa Bay Rosé 2018 (Canterbury) - \$14.99

Oyster Bay Rosé 2018 (Marlborough) - \$12.99

Matua Pinot Noir Rosé 2017 (Marlborough) - \$10.99

Mt. Beautiful Rosé 2017 (North Canterbury) - \$18.99

Flight #2: Pinot Blanc

Waipapa Bay Pinot Gris 2018 (Marlborough) - \$14.99

Kim Crawford Pinot Gris 2017 (New Zealand) - \$14.99

Oyster Bay Pinot Gris 2018 (Hawke's Bay) - \$12.99

Jules Taylor Pinot Gris 2016 (Marlborough) - \$15.99



Flight #3: Sauvignon Blanc

Waipapa Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2018 (Marlborough) - \$14.99

Kim Crawford Sauvignon Blanc 2018 (Marlborough) - \$14.99

Oyster Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2018 (Marlborough) - \$12.99

Whitehaven Sauvignon Blanc 2018 (Marlborough) - \$15.99

Flight #4: Chardonnay

Waipapa Bay Chardonnay 2018 (Marlborough) - \$14.99

Kim Crawford Chardonnay 2016 (New Zealand) - \$12.99

Oyster Bay Chardonnay 2016 (Marlborough) - \$12.99

Giesen Chardonnay 2016 (Hawke's Bay) - \$14.99