

MATTHEW JUKES

TYSON STELZER

2012

THE FIFTH GREAT NEW ZEALAND

PINOT NOIR

CLASSIFICATION

FIVE STARS

Ata Rangi Bell Hill
Felton Road Mt Difficulty

FOUR STARS

Craggy Range Dry River Escarpment
Martinborough Vineyard Mountford Pegasus Bay
Peregrine Pyramid Valley Rippon

THREE STARS

Bald Hills Carrick Chard Farm Cloudy Bay Dog Point Envoy
Forrest Hinton Huia Jackson Mount Edward Neudorf Palliser Schubert
Seresin Surveyor Thomson Two Paddocks Valli Villa Maria Wither Hills
Te Whare Ra

TWO STARS

Akarua Alan McCorkindale Alana Amisfield Auntsfield Blind River
Foxes Island Gibbston Valley Gladstone Gravitas Hunter's Nautilus Olssens
Pisa Range Quartz Reef Rockburn Saint Clair Spy Valley TerraVin Voss Wooing Tree
Cambridge Road Delta Greywacke Johner Ma Maison Mount Maude The Ned Urlar

ONE STAR

Framingham Fromm Highfield Kumeu River Lawson's Dry Hills Lowburn Ferry
Montana Murdoch James Prophet's Rock Trinity Hill 8 Ranges Alexandra Allan Scott
Archangel Aurora Black Quail Burn Cottage Camshorn Catalina Sounds Charcoal Gully
Churton Desert Heart Doctors Flat Domain Road Esk Valley Grasshopper Rock
Hawkshead Isabel Judge Rock Julicher Jurassic Ridge Kaituna Valley Lime Rock
Mahi Marisco Michelle Richardson Mondillo Mt Beautiful Mud House Muddy Water
Nanny Goat Northburn Station Odyssey Pond Paddock Sacred Hill Staete Landt
Tarras Te Hera Thornbury Vavasour Waipara Springs Wild Earth Wild Rock

The Great New Zealand Pinot Noir Classification is awarded by Matthew Jukes and Tyson Stelzer based on a rolling average rating of the five most recent vintages. Light font is used to position estates for which we have yet to taste five vintages.

**BORDEAUX HAS ITS 1855 CLASSIFICATION, BURGUNDY ITS APPELLATION
HIERARCHY, AND, SINCE 2008, NEW ZEALAND HAS HAD
THE GREAT NEW ZEALAND PINOT NOIR CLASSIFICATION**

THE DRINKS BUSINESS, MARCH 2012

**THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST INTELLIGENT ASSESSMENTS
ON THE STATE OF NEW ZEALAND PINOT NOIR**

WINE NZ, 2008

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PINOT NOIR

CLASSIFICATION

We are proud to introduce The Fifth Great New Zealand Pinot Noir Classification to highlight the importance of New Zealand's finest Pinot Noirs.

NEW IN 2012

In 2012, The Great New Zealand Pinot Noir Classification highlights New Zealand's finest 116 Pinot Noir makers, each of whom produce this mesmerising grape variety at a level of excellence that we believe is worthy of your attention. This is a monumental number, representing the most we have ever featured, up from 100 last year and just forty in the first year of the Classification. Many young vineyards have blossomed with another five years of vine age and growers and makers have refined their techniques to new levels of sensitivity and respect for this often temperamental grape.

The favourable conditions of the 2009 and 2010 vintages across most regions have kept the standard of Pinot Noir high. We are consequently pleased to announce that there were no demotions in our 2012 Classification. The following estates are to be applauded on their superb performances in recent years, and have been promoted one level: Carrick, Chard Farm, Forrest, Huia, Jackson, Mount Maude, Neudorf and Saint Clair.

We are also delighted to welcome sixteen estates to the Classification for the first time in 2012: 8 Ranges, Alexandra, Archangel, Aurora, Burn Cottage, Charcoal Gully, Desert Heart, Doctors Flat, Greywacke, Judge Rock, Lawson's Dry Hills, Michelle Richardson, Mt Beautiful, Muddy Water, Nanny Goat and Waipara Springs. Even with these new additions, we estimate that our roll call of heroes this year represents just one-quarter of New Zealand's Pinot Noir-producing estates. This highlights the strength of endorsement of achieving our one star rating.

ROLLING CLASSIFICATION

The Great New Zealand Pinot Noir Classification is a rolling classification, based on an average assessment of the five most recent vintages, so as to provide an up-to-date assessment every year, while maintaining the perspective of recent history. Estates which are performing well now, but which were not producing wine of the same standard (or not producing wine at all) five years ago, are ranked accordingly. Light font is used to position estates for which we have yet to taste five vintages. This rolling classification has been carefully devised to highlight producers who make consistently excellent wines year after year. This is a purposeful contrast to static classifications such as the famous Bordeaux 1855 Classification, sporadic endorsement from wine show success or critiques of a single vintage release.

This body of work has taken eight years to research and a tremendous amount of attention is put into its update every year. Every winery's position is considered at great length. The entire range of Pinot Noirs from each producer is tasted, but it is ultimately the estate wines which set the standard, not the most expensive reserve or single vineyard wines. An estate's inclusion is based wholly and exclusively on the standard of its Pinot Noir wines and not on any other factors.

FIVE TIERS

As wine show judges and wine critics, awarding scores, medals and trophies is second nature to us. An estate worthy of five stars in The Great New Zealand Pinot Noir Classification has produced Pinot Noir that averages a gold medal standard in our assessment over the past five vintages. A winery that verges on gold medal standard, with occasional gold medal performances, is awarded four stars. Three star wineries consistently produce wines of a very high silver medal standard, while two star wineries occasionally reach high silver, sometimes high bronze, averaging solid silver over five vintages. We endorse one star wineries that consistently produce Pinot Noir of bronze medal to low silver standard.

While the scope and complexity of this classification does not permit us to provide commentary on every placement and every wine, we both publish extensively on New Zealand Pinot Noir in many publications throughout the year and readers interested in further detail can follow us at www.matthewjukes.com and www.tysonstelzer.com.

We are very proud of The Great New Zealand Pinot Noir Classification and will continue to finesse and improve this work every year, in order to continue to offer consumers and the wine trade an accurate and up-to-date assessment of the dynamic and thrilling landscape of the finest Pinot Noirs of New Zealand.

Matthew Jukes and Tyson Stelzer.

MATTHEW JUKES

WWW.MATTHEWJUKES.COM

MATTHEW@JUKES.CO.UK

TYSON STELZER

WWW.TYSONSTELZER.COM

STELZER@WINEPRESS.COM.AU