

## Lime Rock Pinot Noir 2016

### The Story

Lime Rock is a stunning vineyard situated on limestone hills in sunny Central Hawke's Bay, New Zealand specialising in Pinot Noir, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Gris, Merlot and Grüner Veltliner. Elegance, balance and length are a feature of our wines. The limestone contributing to the sought-after mineral characters. The ecological philosophy (vit-ecology), combined with over 30 years of wine industry experience, provides a solid basis for producing wines that express the flavour of our land. .

### The Vineyard

The vineyard is on the high, north-facing limestone slopes of Central Hawke's Bay, 6 kilometres west of Waipawa. The three million-year old limestone is soft and crumbly; ideal for vine growth and the best winemaking grapes. The 230-270 m. altitude helps regulate the ripening period and contributes to our distinctive and concentrated aromas. Various positions in the landscape (top, mid and bottom slopes) provide a diversity of niches and micro-climates that add to the complexity of our wines. They have 9 different clones and they can perform differently each year. An ecologically based vineyard management philosophy, that seeks to maintain an undisturbed soil structure, is followed and they put emphasis on providing floral habitat for beneficial insects. Overall the attention to detail in site selection, viticulture and winemaking are reflected in the wine quality.

### Vintage 2016

This was an excellent growing season, with some showers through March, but mainly fine weather with warm days and cool nights in April. Rain came in after most of our picking was completed. There was good flavour and sugar concentration in the grapes.

### Winemaking

We ferment in small parcels (a batch per day), soak fruit and juice at cool temperatures for 3-5 days and allow the ferment to take its course before pressing and filling our premium barrels (from three top French coopers i.e. Mercurey, Dargaud & Jaegle and François Frères). After malo-lactic fermentation and aging the wines for about eight months in our 225 Lt barrels we blend the best of the barrels. This is always a vital and exciting part of our winemaking program.



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### Tasting Note

Ripe and juicy, with spice and dark fruit aromas and flavours, (think of plum and boysenberry) this wine with its smokey, savoury, earth characters draws one in. There is bright acid and textured minerality which gives persistent length. A wine for the future.

5 Stars, CUISINE Magazine May 2018:

Pretty and savoury scents. The fruit is juicy, lively and flavoursome, with fine tannins and fresh acidity providing energy and length. This was the only North Island Pinot Noir to get 5 Stars.

<b>Alcohol Percentage</b>	<b>13.5 %</b>
<b>Residual Sugar</b>	<b>Dry</b>
<b>T.A.</b>	<b>5.6 g/L</b>
<b>Aging Potential</b>	<b>10+ years</b>



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