

## Stonyridge Larose 2008

### The Story

Stonyridge is a world-renowned Cabernet-blend winegrower, located on the beautiful island of Waiheke, near Auckland, New Zealand. They are dedicated to producing the finest Cabernet blends in the world (Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec, and Petit Verdot, combining traditional winemaking with meticulous organic viticulture.

Stonyridge is located in a gently north-facing valley, 1 km from both Onetangi Beach to the north and Putiki Bay to the south. It is sheltered from the cold southwesterly winds by Stonyridge, a long ridge running from one coast to the other. Their viticulture is meticulous, with at least 5 full-time staff working in their 6-hectare vineyard throughout the year. They select the finest clones and graft them onto the best low-vigour rootstocks they can find.

The Stonyridge flagship wine 'Larose', is one of the top Bordeaux-style reds in the world, 'Pilgrim' a Rhone-style red is New Zealand's first Rhone Ranger wine and "Luna Negra" their "Black Moon" a straight Malbec from vines cropped low on a steep northeast-facing slope. Their other range "Fallen Angel" is made up of wines from the Marlborough, Hawke's Bay and Central Otago regions. Apart from the five Bordeaux grapes, they are also doing trials with many other grape varieties.

### Vintage 2008

2008 was a record breaking year in many aspects. At this time (August 2013) it remains the hottest vintage on record, with January and most of February exceeding 30 degrees Celsius, perfect for ripening our backbone Cabernet Sauvignon. Crop levels were high but not excessive. The fruit came in between March 17th and April 12th, the earliest start and finish to a Stonyridge vintage ever. Crop levels, while high, were balanced with a strong healthy canopy, leading to the largest amount of Larose ever produced in a single year.

### Tasting Note

On release: The flagship wine is dark and dense with great fruit expression from the five Bordeaux varieties. Cassis, plum, berries, our customary talclike fragrance with sumptuous chocolate, tobacco and earth on the nose and fine spices, cedar and pencil shavings derived from the oak. A big mouth filling wine, matured in 70% new French oak this wine is engulfed by the huge ripe fruit. Richly flavoured and beautifully complex, with immaculate tannin and structure, the aromas flow through to the palate which is flooded with ripe dark fruits and well integrated French oak. This wine is greatly concentrated with a finish that lasts and lasts.



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# THE WINE CAVE

NEW ZEALAND

12th February 2011: Smoky, toasty, cassis and fine gravel, burnt rose, pronounced oak. The palate in contrast is gentle with elegance. Grammy-awardwinning tannins, a wine yet to release its full potential - in fact it reminds me of a Chateau Lafite I once had – just outstanding!.

<b>Alcohol Percentage</b>	<b>13.5 %</b>
<b>Residual Sugar</b>	<b>Dry</b>
<b>T.A.</b>	
<b>Aging Potential</b>	<b>20 + years</b>
<b>Varieties</b>	<b>Cabernet Sauvignon 37%, Malbec 29%, Merlot 16%, Petit Verdot 16%, Cabernet Franc 2%</b>



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