

## Stonyridge Larose 2009

### 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 2009

This vintage is a very good year, sandwiched between two outstanding years and as a result is often forgotten about. The summer started off wet and humid, not ideal conditions for wine grapes. Some of the earlier varieties suffered as a result, leading to crop loss. However, during the critical ripening and harvest period of March and April, the weather cleared and the vineyard responded.

### Tasting Note

On release: The 2009 is characterised by its elegance, power and ripeness with a focus on balance, length and texture. It is deeply coloured and the nose is dense and complex with magnificently lifted aromatics, a mix of lifted violet florals, sweet dried herbs, cassis and black plum with blackberry and spiced truffle. The palate has power, great extraction and depth, yet is elegant. The fruit is layered beautifully with a bounty of flavours: cassis, black plum, spiced bramble, chocolate and coffee. The firm, yet ripe, tannins give a lovely supple texture and the finish has great length and finesse.

12th February 2011: The 2009 Larose is still so youthful, but with massive potential. The bouquet is reminiscent of wildflowers and wild berries with some savoury roast meat characters starting



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to develop. On the palate the structure is still firm and tightly wound. Luscious fruit through the mid-palate, promises great potential for the coming years, wonderful length!

<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 52%, Malbec 18%, Petit Verdot 15%, Merlot 10%, Cabernet Franc 5%</b>



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