

Stonyridge Larose 2007

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 2007

2007 started with a cool spring, followed by a La Nina summer. Fruit set was down on average, and the summer was wetter than average through January and February. The crucial ripening period of March and April was dry and slightly above the usual temperatures for autumn. The fruit came in with good numbers and great concentration.

Tasting Note

On release: The wine looks dark and dense, with quite a generous nose for this stage, exhibiting ripe berry fruit, cassis and cedar oak with hints of sweet mint, chocolate and earthy notes. There is a brooding complexity lurking beneath the bright primary fruit. The aromas lead faithfully on to the palate which is flooded with rich fruit. The customary ripe tannins are well balanced by fine acidity and the judicious use of oak adds to the structure of the wine.

12th February 2011: The nose reminds me of Xmas pudding packed with berries, raisins and supported by violets and a subtle hint of lavender. The palate is gamey, rich and complex and layered only showing you tiny glimpses of the full picture of a full flavoured mouth filling wine. Even after decanting the wine for more than 2 ½ hours - this wine is packed with detail that



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can't be completely appreciated this young in its life, though please be clear the wine is no less enjoyable - though it is clear there is still so much to learn and explore.

Alcohol Percentage	13.5 %
Residual Sugar	Dry
T.A.	
Aging Potential	20 + years
Varieties	Cabernet Sauvignon 55%, Malbec 21%, Merlot 11%, Petit Verdot 11%, Cabernet Franc 2%



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