

95★★★★★

2007 Forrest John
Forrest Collection Riesling,
Marlborough, A\$35/NZ\$35
Concentrated riesling that's richly textured. Dry, or possibly off-dry in style with strong mineral, citrus, tree-fruit and apricot characters. Powerful and complex. Already showing the benefit of bottle-age but with more potential ahead. **10**



94★★★★★

2009 Mt Difficulty
Chardonnay, Central Otago,
A\$35/NZ\$35
I swear I can pick up a slaty, schist-like character on the nose of this wine. The sort of character that falls under "minerality". I also detect a nectarine and peach flavour plus a strong influence of bready, ginger-nut yeast lees and nutty oak. **6**



95★★★★★

2010 Jackson Estate
Grey Ghost Sauvignon Blanc,
Marlborough, A\$35/NZ\$35
Weighty, richly textured sauvignon blanc that is showing the combined benefits of an excellent vintage and a touch of bottle-age. Passionfruit, stone fruits and melon flavours are supported by attractively fruity acidity. Classy. **3**



94★★★★★

2010 Villa Maria
Reserve Dry Riesling,
Marlborough, NZ\$27
Concentrated riesling in a truly dry style. The fruity acidity is cleverly balanced by a touch of sweetness that doesn't compromise the wine's dryness, but does achieve a pleasing tension. Lime, mineral and mandarin zest. **8**



95★★★★★

2011 Misha's Vineyard
Dress Circle Pinot Gris,
Central Otago, A\$29/NZ\$28
Classic pure pear flavours with a mineral hint. Great mouthfeel and weight with a pleasantly drying finish that shows very little evidence of phenolics. Weighty wine with gobs of fruit in a most appealing style. **6**



93★★★★★

2011 Ata Rangi
Sauvignon Blanc,
Martinborough, A\$30/NZ\$24
A restrained, sophisticated and quite complex sauvignon blanc with a subtle influence of barrel fermentation that slightly dampens the fruit flavour but adds an extra dimension of taste and texture to the wine. **3**



95★★★★★

2011 Misha's Vineyard
Lytic Riesling, Central Otago,
A\$28/NZ\$27
Weighty, concentrated riesling that gains extra texture and density from low yields and fermentation in old oak. Dry style with terrific purity and balance. Hints of stone fruit and tropical fruit with mineral and citrus. **7**



93★★★★★

2011 Felton Road
Dry Riesling, Central Otago,
A\$37/NZ\$33
Truly dry but not excessively austere riesling with lime and subtle floral characters wrapped around a strong core of chalky minerality. While moderately approachable now it will need time to reveal its true potential. **8**



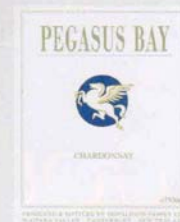
94★★★★★

2011 Ata Rangi
Lismore Pinot Gris,
Martinborough, NZ\$28
Scented, luscious pinot gris with bright flavours and appealing purity. In addition to the classically varietal flavours of ripe pear and anise I noted subtle, white flower and even more subtle toasted-nut flavours. **5**



93★★★★★

2009 Pegasus Bay
Chardonnay, Waipara,
A\$50/NZ\$37
More elegant than their usual blockbuster style. I like the slimmed-down model which maintains mouth-filling richness without any suggestion of heat or hardness. Stone fruit, some citrus, mineral and a nutty-oak lees influence. **7**



96 ★★★★★
2009 Misha's Vineyard
Verismo Pinot Noir, Central
Otago, A\$64/NZ\$63

A more concentrated, structured and possibly more complex wine than Misha's The High Note Pinot Noir, but in a very similar style. Almost luscious, with strong plum, dark cherry, licorice and Asian spices. Very impressive. 🍷 8



96 ★★★★★
2010 Stonecroft Reserve
Syrah, Hawkes Bay, A\$60/NZ\$60

Bright, rich and intensely fruity syrah with plum, berry, black pepper, subtle floral and spicy flavours. Complex, appealing wine with a silken texture and lengthy, determined finish; excellent potential. 🍷 10



96 ★★★★★
2009 Nautilus Four
Barriques Pinot Noir,
Marlborough, NZ\$75

A slightly richer and more intense wine than the excellent regular label, with bright cherry, plum, mineral and spicy oak flavours. It has an elegant power with good cellaring potential. This label is only released in exceptional vintages. 🍷 8



95 ★★★★★
2010 Cable Bay Syrah,
Waiheke Island, A\$59/NZ\$45

Bright, dense and bold wine from a vintage that many believe is Waiheke's best ever. Strong plum and raspberry flavours with floral hints and cracked black pepper. It is youthful and vibrant with a very promising future. 🍷 10



96 ★★★★★
2010 Neudorf Moutere
Pinot Noir, Nelson, A\$52/NZ\$52

Supremely elegant pinot noir with cherry, mineral, spice and nutty oak flavours. Long and linear, with class that displays many subtle flavours on its lengthy finish. Accessible now but it also has good cellaring potential. 🍷 10



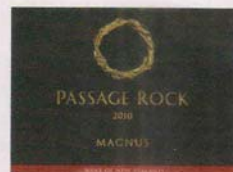
95 ★★★★★
2010 Craggy Range
Zebra Vineyard Pinot Noir,
Central Otago, A\$50/NZ\$43

There are delicate floral, cherry and berry flavours in this pure pinot noir. It's a fine-grained wine with a lingering and appealing finish, revealing a suggestion of spice and savoury characters. A classic example of the Bendigo style. 🍷 7



96 ★★★★★
2010 Passage Rock
Magnus, Waiheke Island,
A\$69/NZ\$69

A blend of syrah, cabernet, merlot and petit verdot using the best barrels of each. A sweet-fruited red with layers of dark fruits, chocolate, spices, new leather and licorice. It's a big and complex wine. 🍷 12



95 ★★★★★
2010 Escarpment Kupe
Pinot Noir, Martinborough,
A\$80/NZ\$85

Escarpment's flagship pinot noir is concentrated with plum, dark cherry, dried fruits and Asian spices. A solid oaky overcoat inhibits fruit flavours a tad but that will change in time. Attractive texture with a long and drying finish. 🍷 10



96 ★★★★★
2010 Passage Rock
Reserve Syrah, Waiheke Island,
A\$55/NZ\$55

Dried plum and dark fruits with licorice, tar, spice and a suggestion of floral flavours. Firmly structured red with fine, drying tannins and layers of serious flavour around a solid core of sweet fruit. 🍷 10



95 ★★★★★
2010 Nautilus Pinot Noir,
Marlborough, A\$43/NZ\$40

Elegant pinot noir with an appealing mix of floral, cherry, mineral and subtle spicy flavours. I like the way that it opens up as it sits in the glass and the lingering finish which reveals power delivered with great subtlety. 🍷 7

