

# ROHE RAPAURA SAUVIGNON BLANC 2023



## TASTING NOTES

Vibrant aromas of ripe passionfruit and blackcurrant follow through to the palate. These intense fruit characters are laced with a vein of gooseberry and herb and underpinned by a focused acidity. This wine is immediately appealing but will continue to evolve over the next five years.

## THE SUBREGION

Rapaura is one of the original and most recognised subregions of Marlborough. This subregion borders the Wairau River, with many of the vineyards fed by underground aquifers. Rapaura sits further inland from Dillons Point, in the lower Wairau valley. The subregion is comparatively warmer and renowned for producing ripe, aromatic Sauvignon Blanc.

## 2023 SEASONAL CONDITIONS

Rainfall: 958 mm | LTA: xx

Growing degree days: 1281 | LTA: 1188

Average diurnal temperature fluctuation: 17.35°C.

The 2023 growing season produced exceptional fruit in the Rapaura subregion. Cool and unsettled weather during the critical flowering period resulted in loose and lighter bunches. The weather around the time of veraison remained unstable and wet, before settling. Warm days were balanced with nights that were particularly cool, and this helped to

arrest any small levels of botrytis that had started early in the season. The fruit bunch structure allowed for increased airflow, which also reduced the disease pressure, resulting in some of the best Sauvignon Blanc we have ever harvested from the Rapaura subregion.

## WINEMAKING

Strong canopy growth supported optimum ripening for the Rapaura Sauvignon Blanc, allowing full flavour development in the grapes. The fruit was harvested on April 8, 2023, then gently pressed before being split into eight batches for fermentation, to provide blending options. The juice was fermented in stainless steel with selected yeast strains, to enhance aromatics and palate weight. A Bordeaux yeast selection was also used for thiol enhancement, to highlight the aromatics and fruit characters unique to this sub-region. After fermentation, the top parcels were selected before the wine was kept on light lees for three months, prior to bottling.

## VINEYARD DETAILS

**Soil types:** Selwyn deep silt, Hynds deep silt and small volumes of Temuka deep clay.

**Total land area:** 29 ha

**Average vine age:** 17.5 years

**Clonal information:** Rootstock 3309, 3306, 101-14, Schwarzmann.

**Scion material:** MS

## TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

**Alcohol:** 13.0%

**Total acidity:** 7.4g/L

**Residual sugar:** 4.3g/L

**pH:** 3.49

## ACCOLADES

94 Points –  
Bob Campbell MW 2023

93 Points –  
Cam Douglas MS 2023

95 Points –  
Wine Orbit, Sam Kim

18/20 – Joelle Thomson 2023

95 points –  
Candice Chow 2023

Gold - The Aotearoa Regional  
Wine 2023

4.5 Stars - Michael Cooper 2023