



- **Country:** New Zealand
- **Region:** Marlborough
- **Subregion:** Wairau Valley
- **Vintage:** 2022
- **Colour:** White
- **Grape Variety:** Sauvignon Blanc
- **ABV:** 13%
- **Bottle Size:** 75cl
- **Closure:** Screwcap
- **Style:** Crisp and fruity
- **Drink With:** Salmon, asparagus, goat's cheese, shellfish or simply by itself

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BLADEN MARLBOROUGH SAUVIGNON BLANC

<https://gerrardseel.co.uk/products/bladen-marlborough-sauvignon-blanc>

This superb Sauvignon Blanc has aromas of gooseberry, grapefruit, nettle and some floral hints. These give way to a plentifully fruited palate with mineral hints, grapefruit zest and herbal notes. It is generous and has finely balanced, zesty acidity and a long clean finish. It's not overblown but most certainly not lacking in power either.

From early morning harvesting to stainless steel fermentation, every stage of this wine's expert production ensures it has the hallmark of Marlborough running through it like Blackpool Rock. It was over 28 years ago when Dave and Christine Macdonald planted their first vineyard over in Marlborough.

Today, their winery is one of the top producers in the Marlborough region. Back in 1989, when the MacDonalds established their Condors Bend vineyard, there were fewer than ten wineries in the area. Now, there are more Marlborough producers than you can shake a stick at but Bladen's benefits from having had the pick of the land at the outset. Their mature vines result in wines that are a joy to taste and drink, with some worthy of inclusion in any cellar. This includes their flagship bottle, the flavoursome Bladen Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc, made from grapes grown in ideal silty loam soils. When ripe, these were machine harvested in the early morning so the crop could be brought into the winery before temperatures became too high however a small proportion is hand picked and fermented separately, later added to the blend.

WHY WE LIKE THIS WINE

With the expansion of the Marlborough vineyards a decade or so ago, many of the wines have become dilute and a shadow of what they should be. Dave and Chris now have mature vines which give the finest of fruit allowing them to make the very finest of Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc.

ABOUT THE GROWER

With a young family and a caravan in tow, Christine and David Macdonald set off on a tour of New Zealand to find the perfect spot to plant a vineyard and to establish what would end up becoming the Bladen winery. This was back in 1989, having left behind the comfort and security of their urban lives to pursue their dreams.

They settled in Marlborough and planted their vineyard by hand, at first selling its grapes to local wineries before eventually producing their own wines under the Bladen label. Despite being one of only nine vineyards in the Marlborough region when they started out, the Macdonalds quickly built a reputation for their exceptional cool climate wines. The Bladen banner is a fitting tribute to their

pioneering spirit, derived as it is from the names of their two children, Blair and Deni, who were merely toddlers when their parents took such a huge leap of faith.