



Muritai, meaning “Sea Breeze” in Maori, nestles between the bluffs of Blind River in the SE corner of Marlborough’s winemaking region. Recent research highlighted olfactory differences between the Awatere and Wairau valleys. Wines from the Awatere have a distinctive style, fresher and with a minerality not found elsewhere in Marlborough. The Blind River Valley is developing as a distinctive sub region with its own style, the most recognizable element being a flinty, smoky character. Muritai was planted to 75 acres of Sauvignon Blanc and 10 acres of Riesling, mostly in 2004.

TERROIR

As locals, we searched for terroir to produce wines of exceptional quality and character at a cost that would make our wines great value. We researched soil and climate to the nth degree and our experience so far suggests we made the right decision.

The soil at Muritai is heavier - the right kind of al-

“Minimal Intervention between Vine and Wine”
“Not organic nor biodynamic, but sensible, practical viticulture that is as considerate to the environment as possible.”

Simon Barker, Winemaker and proprietor

most stone free clay that holds water in the soil and makes it available to the vine’s root system.

Unique micro-climate. Muritai is located a mile from the sea in one of the windiest spots in Marlborough. The sea breeze makes vines less prone to disease, allowing us to cut treatments. Wind also reduces temperature, lowering yields and delaying maturity so the grapes see more of the cooler fall evenings. The larger diurnal temperature difference helps develop aromas and flavors that give our wines their unique intensity.

THE VINES

In line with Minimal Intervention, our wines are made in the vineyard. Vanessa Barker, our viticulturalist, has a horticultural background and cares for the long term health of our plants rather than profits. Muritai is planted at 2.5m x 1.8m and we shoot thin and drop fruit, targeting 12 T/ha.

SUSTAINABILITY

We are certified under the Sustainable Wine Growing program (SWNZ), but we try to do more. Our micro-climate reduces the incidence of disease. Continuous care and careful soil management help us reduce chemical use further. Our mantra of Minimal Intervention drives us to keep our vines healthy and productive with minimal impact on our environment.

