



Vavasour

of the Awaterere Valley

The founding winery of Marlborough's smaller, cooler Awaterere Valley.





The founding of an appellation.



Vavasour is the founding winery of Marlborough's smaller, cooler Awatere Valley.

They once declared the Awatere too extreme for vines. but Vavasour took its chances; planting the first vines in 1986.

Today we are rewarded with the oldest vines and an intimate understanding of this unforgiving place.



Vavasour put the Awatere on the map.



In 1986, the Awatere was a distant landscape dotted with sheep and considered too extreme for vines, so Vavasour had the pick of the valley.

Right from the start, intense layers of flavour declared a unique presence that demanded international attention.

Vavasour put the Awatere on the map as a sub-region to note.

An aerial photograph of the Awatere Valley in Marlborough, New Zealand. The image shows a wide, braided riverbed with a small stream of water flowing through it. The valley is surrounded by lush green vineyards and dense forests of evergreen trees. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear blue sky with a few white clouds. The overall scene is a beautiful landscape of nature and agriculture.

The Awatere Valley.

A smaller, cooler pocket of Marlborough, pushed up out of the ocean by earthquakes, and carved out by ancient glaciers.



Our mountain & river.

Our mountain Tapuae-o-Uenuku looms over us from the west, feeding the relentless Awatere River as it scours a path through the heart of the valley to the Pacific Ocean, sculpting boulders and leaving deep, rocky banks in its wake.





Stonier, drier, cooler, windier.

The Awarere Valley terroir conspires to produce distinctive, complex and intriguing wines.



Our vines plunge their roots deep and wide in their flinty, unforgiving beds, building flavour, intensity and minerality.



Depleted of moisture by the surrounding ranges, the Awarere Valley forces vines to prioritise fruit over foliage and quality over quantity.



A long, slow ripening season delivers elegance and layers of character.



Persistent winds mean lower yields and thicker skins – and more structured, textural and concentrated wines.

A scenic landscape featuring a coastline with a bay, a large cliffside, and a vineyard in the foreground. The sky is a pale, hazy blue, and the water is a deep, calm blue. The foreground shows a golden-brown grassy hillside on the left and a lush green vineyard on the right, with a dirt road winding through it. In the distance, more mountains are visible under the sky.

The omnipresent Pacific ocean.

Brings cool currents and winds from Antarctica,
cooling the valley.



The best parcels & the oldest vines



Nestled into the river, our terraced **Home Vineyards** are home to our original plantings from 1986. They are vines that have really settled into our stony soils. It's that vine age that gives those layers of flavour and depth to our wines.



'The Favourite' Vineyard was chosen for us by the sheep who preferred to graze this pocket of sunshine and sweet pasture. Those same clay soils are to thank for our silky Pinot Noir.



**We have
history
here**



The people who make Vavasour know the Awatere intimately.

We know this place; how the stony soil and unforgiving climate, when handled with intimate understanding, conspire to produce wines of greater elegance, perfume and texture.



Born in the Awaterere

“It’s so satisfying to be making award winning wines from some of the vines I planted as a teenager.” – Stu Marfell



As a child, Chief Winemaker Stu Marfell witnessed an exciting transformation from quiet pastoral farming to celebrated appellation as Vavasour forged a new frontier in winemaking.

As a nine-year-old he was at the winery for that first revelatory vintage of 1989 – and caught the winemaking bug.

Awarded ‘New Zealand Winemaker of the Show’ at the New Zealand International Wine Show in both 2018 and 2022.



We started this appellation and we haven't finished yet

We're capturing the extremes and nuances of the Awaterere. It's detail, precision and a good amount of curiosity that makes our winemaking a constant evolution.



Every year we become more curious and ask more questions of the Awaterere Valley. We create wines that translate that sense of the Awaterere Valley, the soils, the climate and the history that we come from.

Experimentation with whole bunch ferments, indigenous yeasts, high solids, plunged and no-plunging parcels, vineyard orientation and microbial terroir build intrigue from vine to bottle.



Safeguarding our environment for future generations.



Solar panels on top of our winery drastically reduces our use of energy from the main grid.

Our winery is positioned amongst our vineyard, **reducing the carbon footprint** of incoming grapes during harvest.

We bottle our wines in New Zealand using **New Zealand-sourced, recycled glass.**



Wines of extraordinary elegance, perfume & texture.



Our founding wines, our **Vavasour wines** reflect our pioneering Awatere origins.



Named for the compacted blue-grey mudstone that holds tight to the roots of our mature vines, our **Papa collection** of wines are made in very small parcels from our ancient river terraces.



Sauvignon Blanc 2022

“For me, the best wines from the Awtatere always have a unique oyster shell minerality, a creamy mouthfeel and an elegant acidity. It’s a style that has come to characterise Vavasour.” - Stu Marfell



2021

Gold, Decanter World Wine Awards 2021
Gold, Marlborough Wine Show 2021
93 Points, Bob Campbell MW, The Real Review 2022

2022

Champion Sauvignon Blanc & Double Gold, New Zealand International Wine Show 2022
Champion Sauvignon Blanc & Gold, Marlborough Wine Show 2022
90 Points, James Suckling Tasting Report 2022



Pinot Gris 2022

*“The cool weather of the Awarere Valley
brings out brilliant aromatics in this
Pinot Gris.” – Stu Marfell*



2021

Gold, New Zealand International Wine Show 2021

2022

Gold, New Zealand International Wine Show 2022



Chardonnay 2020

*“Rich and silky with the stony
minerality found in our white wines.”
- Stu Marfell*



2020

Gold, New Zealand International Wine Show 2021
91 Points, James Suckling Tasting Report 2022
92 Points, Bob Campbell MW, The Real Review 2023



Pinot Noir 2021

“A luscious and alluring wine, this Pinot Noir demonstrates the beauty of cool-climate vineyards.”
- Stu Marfell



2020

No. 1 Pinot Noir/5 Stars Cuisine Magazine 2021
91 Points, James Suckling Tasting Report 2022

2021

Gold, New Zealand International Wine Show 2022
91 Points, Bob Campbell MW, The Real Review 2023



Papa Sauvignon Blanc 2022

*“Alluring energy and knife-edged
purity that could only be from
this most singular place.”*

- Stu Marfell



2021

Champion Sauvignon Blanc 2021 or older, Marlborough Wine Show 2022
90 Points, James Suckling Tasting Report 2022
95 Points, Bob Campbell MW, The Real Review 2022

2022

5 Stars, Michael Cooper's Buyers Guide 2022
92 Points, Cameron Douglas MS, The Shout 2022



Papa Chardonnay 2020

“A generous bouquet of white peach, brioche and hints of flint. A concentrated palate of rich stone fruit, elegant citrus and savoury complexity leads to a lingering saline minerality.” – Stu Marfell



2020

91 Points, Bob Campbell MW, The Real Review 2022

93 Points, Cameron Douglas MS, The Shout



Papa Pinot Noir 2020

“Intense dark cherries, plum and violet evolve into layers of dried florals and herbs and a silky smooth finish.” – Stu Marfell



2020

93 Points, James Suckling Tasting Report 2022

2021

Gold, New Zealand International Wine Show 2022



See our
Vavasour
story here.





VAVASOUR

AWATERE VALLEY

