

# Mahi



Mahi, meaning 'our work, our craft', began in 2001, fulfilling a dream of ours. After 15 vintages it was time to do our own thing. With a strong focus on single-vineyard wines, and now backed up by a series of premium regional wines from Marlborough, the idea behind Mahi is to respect and promote the individuality of the various vineyards.

The Mahi symbol represents the strength, life, and growth of the native New Zealand frond (fern), with the understanding that wine should never be rushed to bottle, respecting its ability to evolve naturally over time.



## 2018 Mahi Twin Valleys Chardonnay

This wine shows an array of fruit characters, ranging from citrus through to tropical notes.

This is complemented by some secondary characters from the natural yeast ferments and some barrel aging. The palate has an elegant structure with a creamy, textural mid-palate and a long finish.

<b>Varieties:</b>	Chardonnay
<b>Winegrowing team:</b>	Brian Bicknell, Pat Patterson, Phoebe Cathcart, our focussed growers, and brilliant vintage staff
<b>Alcohol:</b>	13.2%
<b>Titratable Acidity:</b>	6.4 g/L
<b>Residual Sugar:</b>	<1.0 g/L
<b>Harvest Period:</b>	Hand-picked, 28 March
<b>Brix at Harvest:</b>	21.3

## Winemaking details

The aim for this Chardonnay is to retain a fresh structure rather than producing a wine that is too broad. The clone and site help with this, but also the picking decisions also work to retain acidity in the glass.

This wine comes from a small parcel in the Twin Valley Vineyard, located in the Fareham Lane area of Marlborough. The vineyard is at the western end of the Wairau Valley, at the junction with the Waihopai, and is on the top terrace. The upper terrace along the Wairau has a more complex soil, a great mixture of silt, clay and stones that give drainage but also some water-holding to help the vines through the dry periods. Being some distance from the sea the climate is also cooler. The grapes therefore typically ripen more slowly and retain an interesting mineral character.

The vines were cropped low to ensure ripeness and palate richness. The grapes were then whole-cluster pressed and the high-solids juice taken straight to French barriques for fermentation with indigenous yeast. After 15 months in oak, we felt the balance was correct and gently took the wine from barrel.

## Vintage

Such an early one, especially after the late start of the 2017 vintage.

We kicked into it on March 19, taking our Rosé from both the Brancott Valley and the Winery vineyard. This was our second earliest start and from then it was pretty well full-on for the next 19 days.

Picking for vintage 2018 finished for Mahi on April the 6th, our earliest, and a day before we started picking in 2012, proving once again that no two vintages are the same, something so good about making wine.

The winery worked really well with the great team this year coming from Tours, Champagne, Chile, Ireland, and New Zealand, but even though we had one extra person we certainly felt the pressure for two days in the middle of it all as we went to two shifts and wondered why we didn't have even more.

Nice clean fruit across the varieties and great depth of flavour.

