



ASTROLABE

2024 SOUTHERN VALLEYS SYRAH

EST -
1996

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VARIETY

Syrah

GRAPEGROWERS

Grown at Beacon Hill vineyard
by the Hammond family.

LOCALITY

Southern Valleys (100%),
Marlborough, New Zealand.

SPECIFICATIONS

Alcohol	13.0%
Residual sugar	<1 g/l
Total acidity	5.7 g/l
pH	3.63

VITICULTURE

Climate: Mean temperatures were average to well above average from September through to February 2024, with accumulated growing degree days over 10% higher than normal. Over the same period, rainfall was only 46% of normal, and soil water deficit was 46% higher. These dry conditions, and fewer berries on the bunches, meant fruit was entirely free of fungal disease at harvest. Lower bunch numbers and bunch weights lead to the harvest being amongst the smallest over the last ten years. The light crops helped the canopies survive the dry, and fruit flavour was excellent.

Soils: Well drained stony alluvium soils and some imperfectly drained loams from the undissected older terraces. The Syrah block is beside an ancient river bank that shelters it from cold winds.

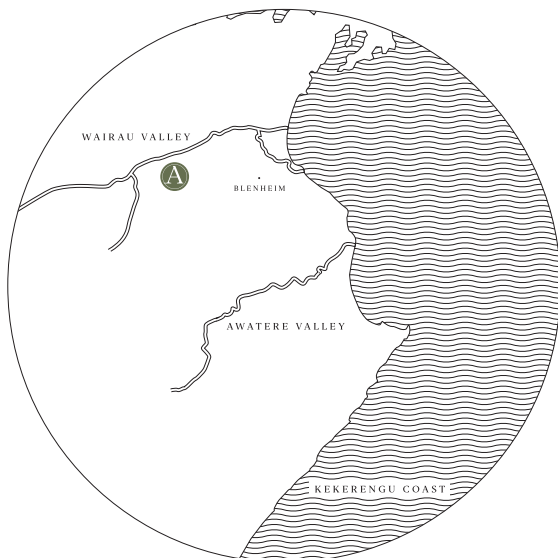
Vine Management: Standard trellis, with pruning to two canes and vertical shoot positioning. Vines are trimmed closely, well tucked, leaf plucked and cluster-thinned for balance.

Harvest Date: The 4th of April, 2024.

WINEMAKING

Hand-picked fruit was de-stemmed and cold soaked for five days then fermented at warm temperature with wild yeast in small open-top vats. Traditional submerging of the 'cap' by hand-plunging was followed by a light pressing. Aged in 20% new French oak in a mixture of barrique and hogshead for 10 months.

Bottled 6th March, 2025.



Simon Waghorn - Winemaker
Waghorn Family Wines