

MILLTON VINEYARDS & WINERY

TASTE VIN

POST-HARVEST 2023

As the sun begins to shorten its time in the southern skies, we once again, anticipate with excitement another season whilst we reflect on the last

We are thrilled to welcome you to the first edition of our quarterly newsletter. As our relatively new US distributor, you play a critical role in helping us bring our wines to discerning consumers throughout the United States, and as a valued and integral part of our business in the future, we feel it is important to keep you connected to our small corner of the world.

Millton Vineyards has a rich history and a deep commitment to producing exceptional wines. For over three decades, we have been dedicated to organic and biodynamic farming practices that respect the environment, promote sustainability, and most importantly produce wines of quality grown and made in an honest way. Our vineyards are located in the Gisborne region of New Zealand, one of the country's oldest winegrowing regions known for its chardonnay and aromatic whites but with the potential for so much more. The Millton Vineyard was established in the early 80s with our first vintage wines made in '84. Since our inception, we have grown the same way we do now making us New Zealand's first Organic and the Southern Hemispheres' first Biodynamic Winery.

In this newsletter, you will find updates on our wines, vineyard activities, and other developments at Millton Vineyards. We will also share stories about our

winemaking philosophy and our team, giving you a deeper understanding of who we are.

We value our partnership with Wilson Daniels and look forward to working together to introduce our wines to new audiences across the United States. Thank you for your commitment to Millton Vineyards, and we hope you enjoy hearing from us.



Sam Millton

HARVEST 2023

Without wanting to start these newsletters on a negative note there is no denying that 2023 has been one of if not the most challenging vintages we have ever had. The year started with a frost, a rare thing in Gisborne, reaching vineyards where we have never observed sub-zero temperatures. This of course meant a lower-than-average fruit set however this was far from our biggest problem.

The growing season was much cooler than usual with a higher-than-average rainfall leading into the start of the year. Despite these setbacks as we moved into 2023, the crop was immaculate. The hard work of Patrick our viticulturist and Pete our lead man on biodynamics meant there was almost no disease pressure or damage to speak of in the vines. Extra efforts in canopy management and adjustments to the spray program all appeared to be working as intended and it was set to be a promising year as we began to apply the bird netting and wait for harvest. On the 11th of January, we were hit by the first of two cyclones in close succession with the most damaging being the second, Cyclone Gabrielle. Gabrielle was the most devastating weather event for Gisborne in living memory. Here on Papatu Road, many people lost crops and housing when the Te Arai River broke being recorded at its highest level since records began. At Millton flooding damaged two vineyards covering huge parts of our Clos Mon and Clos Sam vineyards with silt and forestry

slash our Clos de Ste Anne Vineyard lost much of its roading and fencing. It was a difficult time for the region with no road access in or out of town for over a week and limited availability of power and internet we are still now almost 10 weeks later living with water restrictions due to the mains water pipe being severely damaged by the weather. Harvest began a week later than usual and with a smaller

team than we would have in a normal year, Despite the severely adverse conditions some of our grapes were still very strong with some outstanding Chardonnay picked from our Opou and Naboth's vineyards. But despite the quality in places our decision to only pick what was great and resist the temptation to pick poor fruit meant this has been our smallest harvest on record. The dedication of both our winery and viticultural team means we will still see quality wines from a vintage that will never be forgotten.

We are however undeterred by this there are still many great wines from the '20 and '21 harvests to work through our attention now turns to 2024. This week we have buried cow horns just below Naboth's vineyard which will make our 501 biodynamic preparation

throughout the growing season and planted a range of grasses throughout the vineyards to ensure biodiversity and a functioning ecosystem thrives on our land. There is still some flood repair work to do over these next few weeks to ensure we start pruning with the slate wiped clean and an opportunity to start a new growing season.



Harvest at Clos de Ste. Anne

ANNIE MILLTON

BIO

Annie Millton is the co-founder of The Millton Vineyard, Born in Manutuke, Gisborne, Annie grew up on a farm and developed a love for nature and the outdoors from a young age.

After studying at Lincoln University in Christchurch, where she earned a degree in horticultural science, Annie went on to work for several wineries throughout New Zealand Europe, and Australia. During this time, she gained valuable experience in winemaking and developed a deep passion for the craft.

In 1984, Annie and her husband James Millton took over the running of Opuu Vineyard from Annie's parents John & Dorothy Clark, and would later expand those plantings and build the winery we now know as The Millton Vineyard. They began planting vines and practicing organic farming techniques from the start, with a focus on producing high-quality wines that expressed the unique terroir of the region.

Under Annie's guidance, The Millton Vineyard has become a leader in sustainable and organic winemaking practices in New Zealand. Annie is a strong advocate for biodynamic farming and low-intervention winemaking, she has worked tirelessly to promote these principles throughout the wine industry. Annie has received numerous accolades for her contributions to the New Zealand wine industry. Annie served as Chair of the Gisborne Winegrowers Association for five years, received the Sir George Fistonich medal in 2020, and was named a Fellow of New Zealand Winegrowers



in 2019. Today, she continues to oversee operations at The Millton Vineyard, which has grown to over 22 hectares and produces a range of award-winning wines, including Chardonnay, Viognier, Pinot Noir, and Chenin Blanc. If you have any questions for Annie please reach out to her on annie@millton.co.nz



We would like to thank you for taking the time to read this postcard from the southern hemisphere. Please don't hesitate to reach out before the next one with your questions, thoughts and feelings.
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