

Winemaker's International Selection

These are among some of my own favourite 'non-Ascension' wines from around the world.



Available only by the bottle and subject to availability.

WHITE & SPARKLING

Champagne Nicolas Feuillatte Brut Reserve Particuliere – France 100.00 bottle

20% Chardonnay for elegance and delicacy, 40% Pinot Noir for roundness and structure and 40% Pinot Meunier for fruitiness

Structure – crisp & smooth with delicate bubbles Flavours – floral, pear, apple, almond, hazelnut

Vinoptima Gewurztraminer – Gisborne, NZ 75.00 bottle

New Zealand's finest Gewurztraminer, and one of the best in the world.

Structure – full bodied, lush, soft, off-dry Flavours – lychees, spice, Turkish delight, pear

Hugel Pinot Gris 'Tradition' – Alsace, France 69.00 bottle

One of the greatest names in Alsace, Hugel produces some of the world's purest white wines which are dry, intense, textured and balanced.

Structure – lush, fruity, rich, dry Flavours – pear, almond, spices

RED

St Hallett 'Old Block' Shiraz – Barossa Valley, Australia 89.00 bottle

Made from vines aged between 60 to 120 years old, this is a majestic, full flavoured yet elegant Shiraz from one of Australia's premier wine producers.

Structure – full bodied, rich & powerful Flavours – chocolate, white pepper, blackberry

Mt. Difficulty Pinot Noir - Central Otago, NZ 70.00 bottle

From the arid Bannockburn region, this is one of NZ's finest Pinots

Structure – fleshy & well textured Flavours – black cherry, white pepper, savoury dried herb

Guigal Gigondas - Rhone Valley, France 78.00 bottle

Guigal is one of the finest producers in the Rhone Valley. The blend for this wine is 50% Grenache, 25% Syrah and 25% Mourvedre aged in barrel for 24 months

Structure – medium bodied, dry, firm tannin Flavours – raspberry, cassis, dried herbs

Antinori 'Tenuta Marchese' Chianti Classico Riserva – Tuscany, Italy 72.00 bottle

The Antinori family has been making wine for over 600 years, and is one of Italy's leading and most innovative winemakers.

Structure – full bodied, firm tannin, dry Flavours – dried fruit, sultana, citrus marmalade

Seghesio Zinfandel – Sonoma Valley, USA 72.00 bottle

Zinfandel is a full throttle, 'wild' grape variety that thrives in California, and Seghesio are one of the finest producers, sourcing grapes from vineyards over 90 years old

Structure – full bodied, soft, silky, dry Flavours – raspberry, spice, blueberry, cherry

Ascension Wines

We make handcrafted, modern wines using traditional techniques passed down from generation to generation. Our grapes are handpicked and 'dry farmed' (no irrigation is used) with restricted yields, lots of care and attention and minimal sprays.

We specialize in small batches of very individual wines, many from rare and unusual varieties, which are for sale in the Tasting Room to take home.

RED, ROSE & FORTIFIED WINES

***Unless otherwise stated a 'glass' is a standard 150ml pour (we use big glasses), and a taste is 50ml**

Ascension “Epiphany” Matakana Pressings

6.00 taste, 15.00 glass, 60.00 bottle

Our “secret” Merlot dominant red blend is made only in outstanding vintages ('02 & '05 so far) & in minuscule quantities from the very best parcels of grapes.

Aged in the finest new French oak barriques for 18 months, and bottled with minimal filtration.

Structure - dry, firm, full bodied *Flavours* - plums, fruitcake, leather, vanilla

Ascension “The Benediction” Reserve Matakana Cabernet Franc Merlot

4.50 taste, 12.50 glass, 47.50 bottle

Our classically styled blend of Bordeaux varieties is fermented & plunged by hand in my Grandfather's seventy year-old wooden vats, & aged in a high proportion of new French & American oak barriques for 12 months. *"Beautiful, smooth cabernet franc dominant wine with dark fruits, cedar, vanilla and cigar box flavours"* - John Hawkesby, NEXT Magazine.

Recommended by Australia's Winestate Magazine

Structure - dry, firm, full bodied *Flavours* - blackcurrant, coffee, mint, cedar

Ascension “The Bell Ringer” Matakana Pinotage

3.50 taste, 9.50 glass, 36.50 bottle

We are the pioneers of Pinotage in Matakana. Closely related to Pinot Noir, this variety is also known as the “great grape of South Africa”. We have proven that when planted on the right site & grape yields are kept low, the normally “rustic” Pinotage can produce vibrant, intense & elegant wines.

Structure - dry, soft, medium to full bodied *Flavours* - plum, cracked pepper, bacon, wood smoke

Ascension “The Twelve Apostles” Matakana Merlot Malbec

3.50 taste, 10.50 glass, 38.50 bottle

Our most popular red wine is crafted from twelve special rows of vines we call “The Twelve Apostles”.

This is an earlier drinking version of it's big brother “The Benediction”, handcrafted using the same traditional techniques of hand plunging in open-top fermenters & aged in barriques.

Structure - dry, soft, medium bodied *Flavours* - black cherry, plum, tobacco, toasty oak

Ascension “The Steep Bit” Matakana Malbec

3.50 taste, 10.00 glass, 39.00 bottle

Ascension was the first winery in Matakana & one of the first in NZ to make a wine from 100% Malbec.

Perfectly suited to clay soils, Malbec is an important variety in Bordeaux & Argentina, however it crops very erratically & can be very frustrating to grow!

Structure - dry, soft, medium bodied *Flavours* - violets, raspberry, earth, spice, coconut

RED, ROSE & FORTIFIED WINES Continued

Ascension “The Bandit” Reserve Matakana Syrah Viognier

4.50 taste, 12.50 glass, 47.50 bottle

Ascension planted some of the first Viognier vines in New Zealand, and was the first Matakana winery to make this classic Rhone Valley blend of Viognier and Syrah.

Structure – dry, soft, medium bodied *Flavours* – black pepper, blueberry, spice, vanilla

Ascension “The Rosarian” Matakana Rose

3.00 taste, 8.50 glass, 34.00 bottle

Every row of vines at Ascension is planted with a rose, a tradition dating back many hundreds of years & “The Rosarian” is named in honour of those that care for them.

Recommended by Australia's Winestate Magazine

Structure – off-dry, soft, medium bodied *Flavours* – crushed strawberries, raspberries

Ascension “Fortitude” Old Tawny

7.50 75 ml glass, 42.00 500ml bottle

Made using the same traditional techniques as those in Portugal's Douro Valley, the home of “Port”, this was the style of wine first made by the Dalmatian pioneers of NZ's winemaking industry, including my own great grandparents Bartul & Rakelina & grandparents Frank & Rona.

Structure – sweet, rich & soft *Flavours* - raisins, vanilla, nuts, chocolate

WHITE, SPARKLING & DESSERT WINES

Our white table wines are served from a special wine fridge so you can enjoy them at their optimum temperature.

Ascension “The Ascent” Reserve Matakana Chardonnay

4.50 taste, 12.50 glass, 47.50 bottle

Our “Flagship” Chardonnay is regularly one of the most acclaimed Chardonnays from Waiheke northward. It is made from our tiniest & most concentrated grapes & then crafted into wine using a range of very traditional Burgundian wine making techniques that include whole bunch pressing, barrel fermentation in the finest

French oak, full malolactic fermentation & ageing “sure lie” (on its yeast lees) with weekly “battonage” (stirring of the lees).

Structure – dry, crisp, full bodied *Flavours* – peaches, grapefruit, hazelnut, toasty oak

Recommended by Australia's Winestate Magazine

Ascension “The Rogue” Matakana Flora

3.50 taste, 10.50 glass, 41.00 bottle

Recent DNA testing in California revealed that the vines we originally planted as a special clone of “Pinot Gris” are in fact an exceptionally rare variety called “Flora”. The “mother” vines turned out to be “rogue” vines, creating

“The Rogue” Flora, a new grape variety for Matakana & very similar to Pinot Gris.

Structure – off-dry, soft, medium bodied *Flavours* – pear drops, lychees, cinnamon, guava

Ascension “The Apogee” Matakana Viognier

3.50 taste, 10.50 glass, 41.00 bottle

Viognier is one of the world's most rare & exotic grape varieties. Notoriously difficult to grow, we were one of the first vineyards in NZ to plant Viognier & remain the only winery in Matakana dedicated to this grape which is perfectly suited to our hillside vineyard.

Structure – off-dry, soft, light bodied *Flavours* – honeysuckle, apricot, spice, white peaches

WHITE, SPARKLING & DESSERT WINES Continued

Ascension “The Druid” Matakana / East Coast Chardonnay

3.50 taste, 10.50 glass, 38.00 bottle

Intense tropical fruitiness is the hallmark of this delicious wine, produced from some of the ripest Chardonnay grapes we have ever harvested & fermented in high quality French & American oak.

Structure - dry, soft, full bodied

Flavours - golden queen peaches, toffee, coconut

Ascension “The Passion” Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc

3.00 taste, 10.50 glass, 36.50 bottle

“The Passion” acknowledges the intense passionfruit aromas typical of this fully ripened, single vineyard Sauvignon Blanc. The fruit was so named by Spanish missionaries when they first arrived in South America - they thought the flowers portrayed “Christ’s passion on the cross”.

Structure - dry, crisp, medium bodied

Flavours - passionfruit, straw, gooseberry, red pepper

Ascension “Flamenco” Matakana Sparkling Rose

3.00 taste, 9.50 glass, 36.00 bottle

Abounding with the sparkling effervescence of celebration, “Flamenco” is one of very few sparkling roses in NZ, & is made to celebrate fun, friends & life. Ole!

Structure - medium, crisp, light bodied

Flavours - strawberry, cherry, raspberry

Ascension Methode Traditionnelle NV

4.50 taste, 11.50 glass, 47.00 bottle

Made using the time-honoured & labour intensive “Champagne” method, this full flavoured & elegant wine is crafted from Chardonnay & Pinot Noir vines grown at a very special vineyard in Marlborough.

Structure - dry, crisp, medium bodied

Flavours - freshly baked bread, apple, lemon, macadamia

Ascension “The Lost Vines” Late Harvest

9.00 75ml glass, 35.00 375ml bottle

A vinous “freak” made from grapes that were discovered hanging on the vine, forgotten, long after vintage. A very special & decadent nectar!

Structure - very sweet, soft, full bodied

Flavours - apricot, honey, cinnamon, toffee

Beers and Soft Drinks

Becks, Steinlager Edge, Mac’sGold, Mac’s Black.....\$7.50

Steinlager Pure, Corona\$8.00

Speights Gold\$7.00

Steinlager Lite\$6.50

Orange Juice\$4.00

Ginger Beer, Sour Apple\$4.00

Coca Cola, Diet Coke, Sprite.....\$3.00