



Crimson
PINOT NOIR

Crimson Pinot Noir Vertical

In June 2014, the Ata Rangi Team gathered to review a decade of Crimson Pinot Noir vintages. When we release our wines, we're thoughtful and comprehensive in the notes we craft to describe that wine, the seasonal influences and resulting characteristics and the expectations we have for the length of cellaring potential.

2004 Delicate autumnal aromatics of dried pot pourri, rose hip, with hints of tea and lavender are a delight in this wine. The palate still has a fresh acidity overlaid with dried herb and savoury notes, rounded out with fruit sweetness. This wine is for drinking now, an excellent example of Pinot Noir that has matured but is still elegant and sustaining. Evocatively described by one taster as "Helen Mirren."

Best drink now

2005 A very different wine from the 2004, the aromatics reflect the small bunches and tiny berries of this low cropping year. Herbaceous notes of rosemary meld with meat jus, hints of red kidney beans and darker fruits.

More tannic in structure, this wine has an interesting mix of sinewy and velvety tannins. The palate opens out to dark fruits with a hint smoky complexity. Not a classic year but good drinking. It made us think of a stew of venison cooked in the Bush block hut over the camp fire.

Drink now

2006 A little shy on the nose when first poured but it opened out to a really exciting mix of aromatics, brooding dark cherry, lightly roasted meat, ginger bread, mulberry and violets.

Lovely weight on the palate, fine tannins with an even structure the whole length of the palate. Very good balance of tannin and acidity. This wine like its bigger brother Ata Rangi 2006 really shows pinosity. 2006 was a classic season, and this gave an excellent understanding of what the terroir of Martinborough is about.

One taster described it as "Stunning - fox-like"

Drink now to 2017

Open nose, less defined fruit, with savoury aromatics of roasted meat and truffle. Dark red fruits lift from the glass on a second smell, with fennel, dark chocolate and hints of smoky notes.

Some similarities to the 2005 on first tasting reflecting another low yielding year. But much more agile on the palate, nice brightness and thread of acidity. Full palate with good weight. A mineral seam through the mid palate tempers what is a powerful wine. Some skinky characters showing which detract a little.

One taster was "Overwhelmed by darkness" another loved the complexity and depth of the palate.

Drink now to 2016

More primary fruit aromatics of cherry melded with spice, rose and hint of savoury, roasted meat aromas. Delicate palate with a softer entry, with a sweeter more open feel to the palate. Very fine soft tannins frame this wine. Gorgeous supple fruit on the palate reminiscent of plum brioche and rose chocolate.

Very accessible wine that is drinking well at the moment.

Drink now to 2016

Pretty perfumed nose with aromas of maraschino cherry, rosemary and thyme, berry fruit and spice.

Bright acidity on entry, the balance of acidity and tannin is lovely, fresh and vibrant and nicely poised. Real fruit expression on the palate with rose, aniseed and liquorice notes lingering in the mouth.

Good expression of a warmer year.

Drink now to 2018

2007

2008

2009



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2010 Pretty floral aromas of violets, cherry and interesting complex spice on the nose really define this wine in the line-up. Savoury notes almost hinting at peat draw you back in. Very fine palate, elegant long, with a seamless agile feel. Fruit characters of violets and cherry come through on the palate. The tannins are fine with a wonderful even spread.

2010 we knew was a great year with our Ata Rangī 2010 being one of our favourites of the last 10 years, so it was no great surprise that the Crimson 2010 has a similar charm and real pinosity.

A well-loved wine in the tasting with summary comments of "Precise and delicious" and "Complete and beautiful." Nakesha who does a great job at cellar door intrigued us with her description of its nose "what Sigmund Freud's office would have smelt like!"

Drink now to 2020

2011 Rose hip, crushed aniseed, jelly crystals with a slight sulphide funk. Quite Burgundian in aroma.

Dense, deeper experience, tight, red fruits and violets on the palate, lovely length. Great drive but still needs time to really evolve. Harder to define at the moment.

A smaller more open model of the 2011 Ata Rangī.

Drink now to 2022

Very perfumed expressive nose, cranberry, fennel, star anise, rose chocolate, the most lifted and perfumed of the line-up. Descriptors for the nose were endless: warm sun rose, liquorice, mint, exotic, musk floral. The palate delivered a bright, lovely wine with texture and drive. Not big in frame but more elegant with a mineral steam that keeps this light on its feet.

We are really excited what the cool summer of 2012 has delivered with wine. Bright, interesting, exotic and elegant.

Drink now and through to 2020

A meld of aromas meet in this new release, hints of rabbit guts, cardamom, red fruits, black boy plums, haricot beans and seared beef. Full weighted entry with minerality sucking in the palate giving length and drive.

2013 is a vintage to watch and this one has power and weight for significant aging. Needs time to integrate.

Drink now to 2024

2012

2013

We appreciate that not everyone has a perfect temperature controlled environment – including us! Our descriptions are based on wines from our cellar, which is probably an ideal 14 degrees or lower in winter, but could range up to 19 degrees in summer months. Helen's projections for an outer year from our tastings is based on ideal cellaring conditions and a good closure, so one can adjust from there depending on the relative storage environment.