



Dear Friends of Unison!

After a fantastic, long and very dry autumn (*a blessing for all winegrowers*), nature really seems to be giving all the missed "moisture" back at once! It is impressive to see how quickly small rivers transform into huge waterways. Life is an interesting journey through up and downs and to stay on the positive side you sometimes have to indulge yourself. In this we are happy to assist you!

With this newsletter we are very proud to release the quintessence from Unison Vineyard: our Icon wine Unison Selection 2005 and our signature Wine Unison 2006.

We are very proud to release our internationally recognized Icon wine Unison Selection 2005. This year we made sure that our Friends of Unison don't miss out as it happened to many of you last year. It was again suggested to us from the trade prior to release that we put this wine in the price bracket with the likes of other Super-premium reds such as Coleraine and The Terraces. We decided not to, even though production costs have risen significantly. We believe strongly that Unison Vineyard should consistently produce exceptional wines, at realistic prices, in traditional packaging, (not fancy bottles) where the wine speaks as opposed to the packaging. We believe a great wine should speak for itself - clear, classic appearance and over-delivering in the glass. This is not the easiest marketing approach, but we believe behind each bottle of fine wine should stand the personality of the producer. Therefore we would like to give you the pleasure of really enjoying a great creation from a dedicated husband and wife winemaker team.

We are simply proud of this wine as we feel we have once again captured in a very unique cuvee a wine of great weight yet with wonderful elegance; a wine with complex aromas yet not overpowering and with a delicate, fine tannin structure and a seamless, lingering finish.



This is again a true "blend" of Merlot, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon from selected parts of the vineyard, which receive special attention to detail to produce grapes of such quality that the wine could age for 2 years in wood without being dominated by oak. The different varieties are carefully blended together so that they marry perfectly without one dominating another. As you know we market our Cuvees by brand and not by varietal percentages, because in a true "blend" you should experience a unique wine of perfect balance and harmony. We are also proud that our brand Unison Selection has consistently received 5 stars since the first release in 1997 and also has been rated by Michael Cooper as a "Classic NZ Wine". In addition, this brand has again been selected for the World Wine Atlas by Hugh Johnson and Jancis

Robinson MW as special label feature and as leading producer. We were asked a couple of months ago for a wine label to be included in the next edition of this great internationally distributed book. If we were to be included in this book for a second time, it would be for us amazing international recognition. We can't wait to see the new edition at the end of the year!

Unison 1996 – Unison 2006

and a little celebration: Release of our Unison 2006. What a journey! This wine represents us as we are. The brand Unison was wine with which we established our estate and earned us our

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great overall reputation. Unison is our signature wine and also the main wine we produce. This wine stands for our philosophy of creating year after year a wonderful balanced cuvee to be considered as a serious food wine. This wine sells mainly in restaurants in many different countries in the world and matches so well many different styles of cuisine. Unison is made in a softer style than our Selection and is aged in our big wooden casks instead of Barriques, as we don't want oak tannins to dominate. Unison 1996 – 2006 consistently 5 stars (gold medal status) except for one vintage where we missed out on ½ a star! This, we believe, is an achievement we can be proud of.



Wine aside! We have released again our fresh olive oil, from 100% Tuscan olive oil varieties which we imported into NZ in 1994, put through quarantine and planted out around our vineyard and winery. (I need to find out how many carbon credits we get from these trees !!!) We believe we are the only commercial Gimblett Gravels Olive Oil! The olives were all hand picked as usual (*don't ask us how many weeks... it would be an economical embarrassment!*), but the oil is great! Unfortunately we can't offer it any more in the 2 litre flagons, as we were too small a customer for this line to be continued, so therefore we changed to (*guess!*) wine bottles. In the house we have used a wine bottle with an

"olive oil pourer" in the kitchen for years and therefore intend to also have pourers available for the bottles; Handy, non-drip, stylish but not fancy, practical and traditional!

The last thing: Unison is catching up with the 21st century! We will have from now on an electronic newsletter. We are getting more and more inquiries about receiving the news letter by e-mail. Traditionalists as we seem to be, we needed some time to be convinced, but it will be available from now on. Please bear in mind that my brain thinks more like a vine than a gadget, but I am trying and hope to be successful!!! Personally, one positive aspect would be that if we had a special moment in the winery or vineyard, with this electronic facility we could perhaps share this with you. We don't intend to bombard you with Unison news, but here and there it might be nice to see what we are doing! So if you are interested, please register on our web site www.unisonvineyard.co.nz.

The page is getting full! Thank you again for your interest in our wines and oil and your ongoing support. We know there is a lot of wine out there, but we believe Unison wines represent a point of difference - wines full of integrity and character, which make us proud and keep us going.

AND... if you are coming down to Hawke's Bay and are looking for well-appointed, self-contained holiday accommodation - we hope the Winemaker's Retreat would be of interest to you. You can be assured of total privacy!

Wishing you all the best from the wine maker team
Anna-Barbara & Bruce.

Anna-Barbara & Bruce Kellwell

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