



Dear Friends of Unison!

It's the beginning of spring; Hawke's Bay is blessed with wonderful warm temperatures, the green hills and the blossoms from all the orchards simply lift up the spirits and now the vines are coming to life again – always an important moment for us. Sometimes when we have to drive from Hastings to Napier on the old Highway 50 and you see the hills through clean air with the fresh pasture and newborn lambs, it's almost "too picturesque", its so New Zealand and you can understand and be proud that this country has such a reputation built on such images.

Bruce and I returned just last week from a marketing trip to Hong Kong – what an experience! What a great city, but a city in a constant smoggy haze – what a contrast to NZ! Speaking of reputation, even little Unison Vineyard seems to have some, even there, as we are listed in some very prestige clubs, like the Hong Kong Jockey Club, the Hong Kong Club and other fine private wine clubs. It's an honour (tinged with a little bit of pride!!) to see our Unison next to first growth Bordeaux wines in state of the art, climate-controlled, wine cellars. These little experiences are for us as important as a 5 star rating, medal or trophy. Being represented in places like that where the clientele tend to follow almost "blindly" the top growth Bordeaux wines, and some of the great Italian and Californian labels gives us hope that perhaps in one or two generations Hawke's Bay will also be recognized as a premium red wine region.

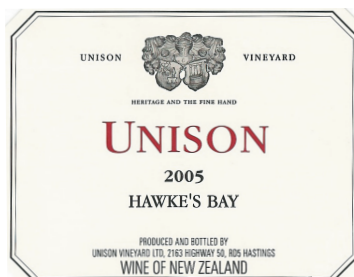


But now we would like to announce the release of our "fun" wine **UNISON ROSE 2006**. We released it this weekend in our cellar door and "converted" our first visitors straight away from so-called "Non-Rose" drinkers, (as these wines are apparently too thin and sweet) to Unison Rose fans (we were immediately one case lighter!!).

Our 2006 is very fresh and vibrant, well structured with good concentration and a hint of pepperiness from the Syrah – simply a happy wine!

On the more "serious" side we are proud to release our signature wine **UNISON 2005**. The *usual* blend, the *usual* great balance, the *usual* fine tannin structure, the *usual* finely defined fruit and floral characters, the *usual* long finish, the *usual* overall harmony, the *usual*....

As this is the 9th release of this wine, and as it has consistently been awarded 5 stars (except one



vintage which only made 4.5!!), I chose to describe the new release of our **UNISON 2005** with the word *usual*! We are proud of this wine and hope you will enjoy it! Our **Unison brand** is served in many fine dining restaurants and hotels in many countries, which shows us that Unison's overall balance and harmony and fine tannin structure makes it a great food wine for many different styles of cuisine.

OTHER NEWS:

Bruce and I would like to take this moment also to apologize to many of our clients that our **UNISON SELECTION 2004**, which we released 4 months ago, was sold out so quickly. Even though we restricted it in all markets, it went far too quickly. Again, we are very sorry that we didn't have this wine available to all who wanted it.

This year **UNISON VINEYARD** quietly celebrated its 10th anniversary. It is 10 years ago that Bruce returned and I immigrated to NZ. What a lot has happened in these 10 years. It was timely to take a moment to look back, now we understand why we felt sometimes so stretched out!!

With the 2006 vintage we made a **very special wine to celebrate our 10th vintage**. We won't say any more at this stage but we will keep you posted.

Having worked hard for 10 years, the first 4 years without any holiday (I remember leaf plucking on Christmas day!) and for the other 6 years 7 days a week for most of the year, we decided that we need to have Sunday off to do justice to our growing family. The children won't be with us for ever. With this in mind we have started a tasting room and Café together with two other small estates, called **Triangle Red**, located on Ngatarawa Road. At this new venue people can enjoy a glass of our wine with a fabulous stone oven pizza and we have the chance to **close our cellar door at Unison Vineyard on Sundays**. We hope you understand that we need to take the Sunday off. If you come to Hawke's Bay on a week-end and would like to visit us, please call in on Saturday.

As an aside, I believe our web site should be up and running again when you receive this news letter. Our apologies that this up-date took so long.

We hope you enjoyed our news and we look forward to welcoming you again to Unison Vineyard.

Kind Regards, your winemaker team,

Auna-Barbara & Bruce Helliwell