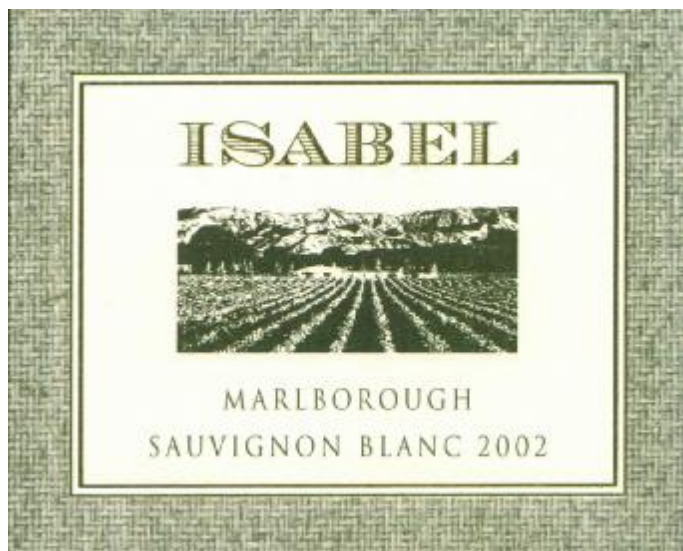


# ISABEL



## VINTAGE NOTES

### 2002 SAUVIGNON BLANC

**HARVEST DATES:** 3rd April - 6th May 2002.  
**VINEYARD:** Isabel Estate.  
Block 5 Rows 265 – 431  
**VARIETY:** Sauvignon Blanc  
Clones UCD 1 and 2, BDX  
316 and 317, 5385

**VITICULTURE:** The 2001-2 growing season was a unique one. There were early rains and warm temperatures that encouraged vigorous early growth. Some warm dry spells followed during flowering which, along with last years hot dry vintage, produced a record fruit set. An ideal dry long ripening spell ensured that the fruit ripened fully giving a good range of flavours. Vineyard management techniques, such as leaf plucking, shoot thinning and bunch thinning ensured that the vines were not overcropped.

**HARVEST ANALYSIS:**

Brix	20.2 – 24.9
Acid	10.3 – 7.6
pH	3.29 – 3.36

**OENOLOGY:** The long dry spell enabled us to monitor the ripening of the individual blocks. This allowed us to pick each block at their optimum flavour development. It also eased the workload on the vintage crew with such a large picking window. Some blocks were harvested early to enhance the fresh crisp herbaceous fruit that Marlborough is renowned for. The majority of the blend was cool tank fermented to retain pure varietal character and silky texture. Select riper portions were hand picked and pressed straight to barrels for fermentation to impart body, texture, and riper flavours to the blend. Partial malolactic fermentation and the use of wild yeasts assist the complexity of the wine.

**WINE MAKER'S COMMENTS:** Open a bottle of this little ripper and the scent will bring your neighbours over for a glass. The nose is an intense explosion of fresh herbaceous gooseberry, grassy aromas. A fresh front palate full of herbaceous fruit leads into a more ripe textural mid and back palate. Acidity holds the wine together and gives length. A perfect match for summer salads and seafood.

**WINE ANALYSIS:**

12.5 % alcohol
6.3 g/l titratable acidity
2.9 g/l residual sugar

**BOTTLING DATE:** 15th August, 2002