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The Providores and Tapa Room

Wine of the month, May 2012

**2009 Mahi, 'Twin Valleys', Gewürztraminer, Wairau Valley, Marlborough
40.00 bottle / 25.40 carafe / 11.60 glass**

Marlborough is situated on the South Island's north-eastern tip, bordered by both the Pacific Ocean and the Marlborough Sounds, lending it a maritime climate. The region boasts the picturesque plains of the Wairau Valley, sheltered by the Southern Alps to the south-west and the Kaikoura Ranges to the east. Marlborough is NZ's largest wine region, responsible for around 50% of all its vines, and over 65% of its Sauvignon Blanc.

Mahi

A full rich wine with a great middle palate. Turkish delight flavours and citrus characteristics continue to evolve in the glass, giving lovely developed spicy notes.

Mahi which means "to work, to craft" was established in 2001. The Mahi symbol represents the strength, life and growth of the native New Zealand koru (fern frond), together with the understanding that wine should never be rushed to bottle, respecting its ability to evolve and develop naturally over time. Accordingly, the vineyard represents the fulfillment of a personal dream for Brian Bicknell and his wife Nicola. Brian has an exceptional portfolio both in New Zealand and internationally, having established his reputation as a winemaker, domestically, for Seresin vineyards in Marlborough and in Errazuriz in Chile. Brian's particular vision for Mahi, within its Marlborough setting, however, was to highlight the individuality of particular vineyard sites rather than conforming to the regional stereotype. This approach led to a strong following amongst journalists, wine buyers and consumers alike. In 2006 Mahi moved to its current winery, just west of Renwick, where Brian and Nicola introduced a Marlborough 'series' while continuing to explore the exciting possibilities presented by specific vineyards and growers. The area's natural hillside caves - utilized by the vineyard from its inception - have been upgraded over the years and are now suitable for barrel storage, with tanks refrigerated to suit their Sauvignon Blanc fermentations. The focus, however, remains on Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc.

In 2003, another vineyard, Twin Valleys, was selected by Brian as it was situated in another distinctive part of the Wairau Valley. Its location in Fareham Lane, which is far west, gives slightly cooler temperatures and longer ripening times - perfect growing conditions for the aromatic Gewürztraminer which saw its first vintage in 2006.