

## **Neudorf Pinot Noir 01 - *Moutere***

Grapes are largely from the 20 year old clone 10/5 vineyard at Pomona, and the even older clone 22 block at Neudorf - both on the Moutere hill clay gravels.

A low crop (less than 1.5 tons/acre) and long warm summer are immediately apparent in the fruit - ripe blackberry, grilled cherry, black plum - and the concentrated chewy palate.

Clone 22 is the perfect foil to the sweet-fruited 10/5, its fingerprint of forest floor and campfire characters harmonising with and reinforcing the toasted portion of the oak spectrum.

Experience with the 2001 Nelson pinot, and supported by early tastings of this wine, suggests that the cork sealed wines move far more quickly even at this early stage.

The wine was bottled in late May, and the July tastings showed the screwcap sealed bottles to be still bright and full of primary fruit - the cork equivalents appeared richer, less fruited, more tannic.

Leaving any cork taint problems aside, (if only we could), I would expect the screwcap sample to mature more slowly, certainly more evenly, and have an appreciably greater cellar life.

Whether the six year old screwcap wines (all intact and consistent from bottle to bottle) will be better than the best of the variously matured six year old cork sealed samples remains to be seen. At ten years I think there will be no contest.

**“Wonderfully complex with multifaceted mushrooms and Black Forest gateau characters, dense multi layered texture and fine grained ripe tannins. This is classically styled with huge potential for development.”**

Paul White The Dominion