



Company Profile

Directors :

John Matheson has a sound practical industrial and agricultural background which ensures a continuation of excellence in farming practice in this viticulture sector.

Vineyard Consultant :

Lisa Whipp Dip Vit, our consultant Viticulturalist, has been involved with the company since the first harvest and advises on aspects of vineyard management and standards implementation. Lisa's extensive local knowledge is attributed to the success in fruit quality and yields.

Winemaker:

Gerry Rowland of the Napa Valley USA is a consulting winemaker to the William Hill Winery on Dunstan Road Alexandra over the last 9 seasons. Gerry has a family winemaking lineage dating from 1537. Drumsara grapes enter the winemaking process at William Hill under his supervision and control.

Vineyard Location:

Drumsara Vineyard is situated high on the glacial outwash gravel plateau overlooking the Central Otago towns of Clyde and Alexandra. Situated at 274 Hillview Road, off Dunstan Road, Alexandra.

The vineyard has been developed on a 4 hectare site with a further 4 hectares adjacent under current development. The first block, of 1 hectare was planted in 2000. A further 2.47 hectares was planted in 2001, 1.29 in 2003, 1.98 in 2005 and the remaining 1 hectare in 2006. Pinot Noir & Pinot Gris vines are planted throughout.

The soil structure on this plateau, and in particular the structure displayed in the test bores, provide a foundation for uplift of a complex range of glacial minerals gathered from at least the last 400,000 years. Glacial rocks are scattered throughout the vineyard and have been placed under the rows of vines to absorb the heat from the sun and help ripen the grapes.

Alexandra has a dry desert like climate which typically produces 1200 – 1300 GDD's and a rainfall of 350mm. Warm days and cool nights are proving to be an ideal growing environment.

Viticulture Technique:

Handcrafted in every respect from shoot thinning, shoot positioning, leaf plucking, bunch thinning and bunch harvest.

Irrigation and fertigation is stringently managed to maintain optimum soil moistures and supplementary mineral delivery. Frost protection is a must as the much desired lower temperatures required for acid levels is also a danger. If temperatures get too low at the beginning of the season it destroys the plant cells and potential fruit. At the end of the season frosts can also damage much needed leaves that are required to help the vines ripen the fruit. This is combated with an overhead watering system with sprinklers spaced at 18sqm. These work by delivering enough water that freezes on the surface of the canes and causes latent heat from the ice and preventing tissue to freeze.