

Marlborough Focus Vineyard

Who are they?

Three growers have been selected as the Focus Vineyards for Marlborough. All the growers have multiple varietals vineyards, but the project focuses on one block of the Sauvignon Blanc variety.

Stembridge – Owned and operated by Max Gifford, who has been in the industry for 25 years farming in the main Wairau valley in the Rapaura area. The vineyard is 39 ha in total on a sandy to shallow sandy loam over greywacke alluvium, 8 m above sea level. A 5 ha block of Sauvignon Blanc is being studied closely as part of the project. The block has variable soil depths and consequently a range of vine vigour.

Tyntesfield – Owned and operated by Edward Ensor, who runs a 47 ha vineyard on Tyntesfield Road in the Waihopai valley for the last 12 – 14 years. The soil type is a shallow sandy loam over greywacke which is mostly stony the site is 170m above sea level. A 6 ha area of Sauvignon Blanc is being regularly monitored and has consistent vine vigour.

Tohu Wines – Owned by the Whakatu Corporation and managed by John Eade. The overall vineyard area, on Marama Road in the Awatere Valley, is 105 ha of which we are monitoring 4.1 ha of Sauvignon Blanc on two rootstocks (5c and 101-14). The soil type is a greywacke alluvium on greywacke gravels, with a thin cover of greywacke loess, 220m above sea level. The vineyard has a three year history and the vines are still developing to a consistent size.