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★★★★★ Star Listings ★★★★★

LAKE CHALICE – Marlborough

2013 THE NEST, SAUVIGNON BLANC, \$144 (\$18) ★★★★★

2013 LAKE CHALICE SAUVIGNON BLANC, \$144 (\$18) ★★★★★

Both wines have screw cap closures. The Nest is an excellent wine: round, full bodied, and lightly sweet, it is distinctly flavored (lime, apple, guava, passion fruit), balanced, and medium long on the finish. 15,000 cases. 13%. The black label Sauvignon is exceptional wine: full bodied, crisp, and finely flavored (lime, passion fruit, grapefruit, guava), with excellent balance and length. Great value. Produced from Wairau Valley fruit. 15,000 cases. 13% [2014-2015]

2012 LAKE CHALICE PINOT NOIR MARLBOROUGH, \$192 (\$24) ★★★★★+

Screw cap. Intensely flavored and full-bodied, this wine has distinctive Pinot Noir character (raspberry, cherry, rosehips, red currant), with overtones of toast, clove, and spicy oak. Long aftertaste. Excellent. 30% French oak aged for 9 months. 3,000 cases. 13.5% [2014-2015]

MAIMAI VINEYARDS - Hawkes Bay

MAIMAI VINEYARDS, 2013 SAUVIGNON BLANC, HAWKE'S BAY, \$128 (\$16)

★★★★+

Screw cap. A medium bodied Sauvignon that is crisp and long on the palate, with a lingering finish, tasting of pear, lime, lemon grass, and guava. 15,000 cases. 12% [2014]

FORREST ESTATE – Marlborough

2012 THE DOCTORS', RIESLING, \$144 (\$18) ★★★★★

2013 FORREST SAUVIGNON BLANC, \$144 (\$18) ★★★★★

2013 THE DOCTORS', SAUVIGNON BLANC, ★★★★★+ \$144 (\$18)

All three wines have screw cap closures. Forrest Wines is a leading Marlborough producer, well known for its lower-alcohol varietals, bottled with The Doctors' blessing. The 2012 Riesling is lightly sweet, light bodied, and crisp; a Mosel-like Riesling, in the best sense. It is finely flavored (apple, lime, honeysuckle), crisp, and medium long on the finish. Excellent value. 8,000 cases. 8.5%. The Forrest Sauvignon, at 12.5% alcohol, is also excellent. It is a vibrant, medium bodied wine with crisp acidity, good balance, and a very long finish, tasting of lemon, green apple, pepper, grapefruit, and passion fruit. Nearly austere in style. 12,000 cases. The Doctors' Sauvignon is very fine: fragrant and very distinct (pear, lime, lemon grass, passion fruit), crisp, and long and dry on the finish. Delicate in style. 6,000 cases. 9.5% [2014-2015]

FORREST PINOT NOIR 2012 MARLBOROUGH, \$200 (\$25) ★★★★★

Screw cap. An elegant, moderately intense wine with full body, good balance, and light tannin on the finish. It tastes of red currant, rose petal, cranberry, and toast. Warrants modest aging. 3,000 cases. 13.5% [2015-2016]

SEIFRIED ESTATE – Nelson

2013 OLD COACH ROAD, SAUVIGNON BLANC, ★★★★★ \$128 (\$16)

2013 SAUVIGNON BLANC, \$144 (\$18) ★★★★★★

2013 PINOT GRIS, \$144 (\$18) ★★★★★

2013 GRUNER VELTLINER, \$144 (\$18) ★★★★★+

2013 GEWURZTRAMINER, \$144 (\$18) ★★★★★★

All 5 wines have screw cap closures. This Nelson producer was founded in 1973. Over the years, the wines have steadily improved, and are generally excellent. The Old Coach Sauvignon is a fine New Zealand Sauvignon. It is a full bodied and somewhat fleshy wine that is smooth and long on the palate, with moderate richness, and good balance. It tastes of lime, lemon grass, and passion fruit. 30,000 cases. 13%. The Seifreid Sauvignon is a richer wine than the Old Coach bottling, and with more intense Sauvignon character (lime, lemon grass, passion fruit, guava). It is full bodied, crisp, and very long and persistent on the finish. Great Sauvignon value. 20,000 cases. 12.5%. The Pinot Gris is a full bodied, balanced wine with intense character (litchi nut, lime, apple, melon, pear) and a long finish. Excellent quality. 4,000 cases. 13%. The Gruner Veltliner is excellent: full bodied, crisp, and finely flavored; a wine with a crisp, long finish tasting of green apple, lime, white pepper, and grapefruit. 800 cases. 13%. The Gewurz is exceptional. It is full bodied, supple in texture, rich, and off dry; a wine with rose petal, litchi nut, white pepper, clove, and lime aromas/flavors. 1.12% R.S. 3,000 cases. 14% [2014-2015]

CARRICK WINES – Central Otago

CARRICK WINES, 2013 BANNOCKBURN, RIESLING, CENTRAL OTAGO, \$96/6 (\$24) ★★★★★+

Screw cap. A distinct, elegant Riesling with crisp acidity, intense flavors (lime, jasmine, pineapple), and a long, crisp finish. Excellent value. 1,000 cases. 11% [2015-2016]

CARRICK WINES, 2011 UNRAVELLED, PINOT NOIR, CENTRAL OTAGO, \$120/6 (\$30) ★★★★★+

Screw cap. A round, full bodied Pinot Noir in a somewhat toasty style. It has plum, red currant, cherry, cedar, and spicy oak aromas/flavors, and a crisp finish. Very good value. 10,000 cases. 14% [2014-2015]

CARRICK, 2011 BANNOCKBURN, CENTRAL OTAGO, \$200/6 (\$50) ★★★★★

Screw cap. A full bodied, moderately rich Pinot Noir that has evident oakiness (toast, new oak, tobacco), and plum, red currant, and rosehips overtones. Long finish. Warrants modest aging. 1,000 cases. 14% [2015- 2017]