

# STATION IMPORTS



## Station News

*The 2010 Rippon Festival was held on a hot and sunny day in February and the gang from Station Imports was there to enjoy Rippon Vineyard as never before.*

*Andy and Penny could have been among the oldest attendees but it didn't stop them from enjoying the music, people and Rippon wine all day & night long! They were not at all reluctant to hand over the music festival "torch" to Jennifer and new husband Bucky for the next festival to be held in 2012.*

*Held every other year, the folks at Rippon Vineyard celebrate Kiwi musicians and their music by hosting this outdoor festival – it's the longest running of its kind in New Zealand. Run by the not-for-profit group, Lake Wanaka SouNZ, the proceeds are donated to the local community to support music, youth and the environment. This year the group also donated a dollar per ticket sold to the Samoa Tsunami Appeal.*

*We thought highlighting the Rippon Festival a fitting introduction to the newest wines from this great piece of land – a celebration of the maturity of the vines to be able to produce some special wine from selected grapes. The allocation for the USA is only 12 cases of each of the single block wines – so as recipients of our newsletter, you are hearing about these wines first. You can trust that the quality that has made Rippon Pinot Noir one of the most highly regarded wines in New Zealand has gone into these wines. If you want to be some of the few lucky people to have access to these wines, don't hesitate to contact us.*

*Also new this year at Rippon is the construction of their new tasting room and function building that will take advantage of the spectacular views overlooking the vineyard, lake and mountains. We predict that this will soon become the most popular wedding ceremony and reception location in the Southern Hemisphere.*

## Wine News

### New Pinot Noir for Rippon Vineyard



Rippon Vineyard was one of the first vineyards to be planted in Central Otago. Located on the western edge of Roy's Bay, Lake Wanaka, this north facing escarpment forms a perfect vineyard enclosure of terminal moraines, alluvial course gravels and schist. Rippon began in 1974 with just a few rows of vines planted on the steep hill behind the house. Becoming more confident with early success, the first commercial vines were planted in 1982. Many varieties were present in those early days but the Syrah, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Chenin Blanc vines were soon replanted with Pinot Noir and Riesling which proved to be more vigorous.

Nearly thirty years later the Pinot Noir vines have come of an age where subtleties of soil and exposure have developed distinctive Pinot Noir profiles within the vineyard. This fortunate circumstance has allowed Jo and Nick Mills to embrace and share these spectacular Pinots Noirs with the introduction of two new single block selections called Emma's Block and Tinker's Field.

A unique parcel within Rippon, Emma's Block faces eastward on the lake front where ancient clay reefs run laterally through fine schist gravels producing a Pinot whose characteristics are detailed, sleek and fine with an animated femininity. Emma's Block is named after the great-great-great grandmother of the current generation of the Mills family, through whom the name entered into the family.

Tinker's Field is a gentle, north facing slope formed by an ancient ejection cone of coarse schist gravels. Tinker's Field is home to the oldest vines on the property and is named after Rippon's visionary founder, Rolfe Mills (Tink to his friends), and the land that he had dreamed of farming since childhood. Characteristics of Tinkers Field are layered and detailed with compressed power and precise, unforced masculinity.



**With more richness and depth than most New Zealand Pinots [Rippon Pinot Noir 2008]... the depth and complexity are second to none.**

Gregory Del Piaz, **Snooth**, March 2010

