

## Stonyridge Larose 2014

The big problem with a vintage like 2014 is that it is following 2013, a vintage we consider to one of the true greats. I'm not going to tell you the traditional nonsense that you get about every year being that much better than the previous, but what I will tell you is that the 2014 Larose is an exceptional wine, and one that is more in the classical mould with even greater age ability than the 2013.

Bordeaux 2009 versus 2010 I think is a good comparison for the Waiheke vintages 2013 versus 2014. The opulence, femininity and early drinkability of the 13's making a perfect counterpoint to the more extractive, masculine, age-worthy wines from the 2014 vintage.

2014 Larose shows a dense deep purple, with the colour running all the way to the rim of the glass, vibrant and with brilliant clarity. The nose shows great depth and complexity of black berry fruits well integrated cedary oak and dried Mediterranean dried herbs, plush and inviting. Strapping in structure, with rugged, bristling tannin at this early stage of the evolution, the sweetness from the higher alcohol helping with the balance and volume on the palate. 2014 Larose finishes with great length and focus.

This Larose is definitely one of the vintages to put away for your kids/grandkids, they'll thank you for it!

Encepageant:

Cabernet Sauvignon 52%

Petit Verdot 18%

Malbec 16%

Merlot 12%

Cabernet Franc 1%

Carmenere 1%

Winemaker: Martin Pickering

1600 Cases produced

## **Stonyridge Larose 2013**

Larose 2013 is an absolute monster, and although the density and richness on the nose is wonderful, the bright aromas of violets and blackcurrant still sing on top of these powerful base notes. The typical freshness and purity of Larose is supported by the secondary bouquet of pipe tobacco, liquorice and espresso, making for a complex, constantly evolving nose full of intrigue. Once you tear yourself away from the perfume and finally get to imbibe, the initial impression is of massive, ripe tannin structure with huge concentration. The freshness of the acid keeps the focus, and the palate, while massive, still feels very precise.

Encepagement:

Cabernet Sauvignon 52%

Petit Verdot 19%

Malbec 12%

Merlot 12%

Cabernet Franc 4%

Carmenere 1%

Winemaker: Martin Pickering

1240 Cases produced

## Stonyridge Larose 2012

2012 was a very long ripening season. We started later and finished later than ever before in the history of winemaking at Stonyridge. This gave the fruit good hang-time to develop maximum flavour potential. Extensive vendange verte (green harvest), especially on our Cabernet Sauvignon grapes, post fruit set gave us great concentration and dry extract in the resulting wine. During the harvest period, the weather was ideal, allowing us to pick fruit at optimal ripeness and balance.

**Encépagement:** Cabernet Sauvignon 35%, Merlot 21%, Malbec 21%, Petit Verdot 16%, Cabernet Franc 6%, Carménère 1%

Winemaker: Martin Pickering

1150 Cases produced

**Tasting notes on release:** *The 2012 Larose shows great intensity and purity. Dark, wild, brambly berry fruit with freshly ground cinnamon and cardamom underpinned with cedar, pencil shavings and vanilla from the 55% new oak component make for a complex and intriguing nose.*

*On the palate, 2012 Larose at this tender age is taut and firm with wonderful length, an underlying generosity of sweet fruit promises excellent cellaring potential.*

*This wine matches well with steak and other red meats.*

**Recommended drinking after a tasting at 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013:** *To be cellared for 10-20 years from release date, and perhaps longer.*

## Stonyridge Larose 2011

The 2011 Larose is a real triumph for Stonyridge. The team had survived the wettest summer combined with one of the hottest vintages on record to have an above average amount of wine in barrel. As a result of the difficult vintage, a significant amount of normal Larose quality fruit was declassified to Airfield. Despite some higher crop levels in the vineyard, a relatively small amount of Larose was produced.

**Encépagement:** 33% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Petit Verdot, 20% Merlot, 15% Malbec 6% Cabernet Franc, 1% Carmenere

Winemaker: Martin Pickering

980 Cases produced

**Tasting notes on release:** *Visually, the wine is a deep ruby with a brightness through the rim of the glass. On the nose, the concentrated cassis and plum characters combine with the lifted violets to give more of a right bank style Bordeaux blend, an indication of the significant Merlot proportion in this particular Larose. The oak integrates to provide pencil shavings and mocha notes, and supports the fruit weight harmoniously. The wine is has a firm structure and is quite tight at present from the natural acidity. This balances and accentuates the ripe tannins as well as giving length to the sweet fruit through the mid-palate.*

**Recommended drinking after a tasting at 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013:** *Again a wine to savour, best drinking will be from 2018 onwards.*

## Stonyridge Larose 2010

2010 will go down in history as the greatest vintage ever on Waiheke Island. A gentle spring with ample rain and little wind produced a full, healthy canopy with good fruit set. Then came January, February, March and April; non-stop, sun drenched, dry gentle south-westerlies. Only 12mL of rain fell during these four months, the lowest ever recorded. With extensive green harvest, the big crop still garnered huge concentration. The hardest thing we did this year was trying to find wine to declassify to Airfield and Faithful.

**Encépagement:** Cabernet Sauvignon 50%, Petit Verdot 21%, Malbec 17%, Merlot 8%, Cabernet Franc 3%, Carmenere 1%

Winemaker: Summer Bell

1535 cases produced

**Tasting Notes on release:** *The 2010 Larose is purple red with a density and brightness that goes all the way to the rim of the glass. Initially the bouquet reveals lifted florals of crushed violets and lavender, followed by the primary fruit characters of dark forest berries, black plums and cassis. The secondary spice characters, clove and thyme are layered with leather and a hint of freshly roasted dark coffee. The tannins are firm and well structured. There is massive fruit weight, which balances the natural acidity perfectly. The persistence on the palate is massive this wine goes forever.*

**Tasting notes August 2013:** *The 2010 Larose has a beautiful density that is fused with elegance. The nose is packed with dark berries, bracken, leaves, plums and licorice, and cedary oak adds sweet spicy allure- this is looking super-fresh and composed. The palate has the sort of tannin texture that all Cabernet winemakers dream of: sturdy, chalky-fine tannins that draw sweet, ripe dark berry flavour long and deep, composed and full of elegantly stated authority. A real triumph!*

**Recommended drinking after a tasting at 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013:** *Do not open! Savour for years! Still far too tannic to appreciate, this wine has a huge life ahead of it. Open your first in 2020... and enjoy.*

## Stonyridge Larose 2009

This vintage is a very good year, sandwiched between two outstanding years and as a result is often forgotten about. The summer started off wet and humid, not ideal conditions for wine grapes. Some of the earlier varieties suffered as a result, leading to crop loss. However, during the critical ripening and harvest period of March and April, the weather cleared and the vineyard responded.

**Encépagement:** Cabernet Sauvignon 52%, Malbec 18%, Petit Verdot 15%, Merlot 10%, Cabernet Franc 5%

Winemaker: Summer Bell

1220 cases produced

**Tasting Notes on release:** *The 2009 is characterised by its elegance, power and ripeness with a focus on balance, length and texture. It is deeply coloured and the nose is dense and complex with magnificently lifted aromatics, a mix of lifted violet florals, sweet dried herbs, cassis and black plum with blackberry and spiced truffle. The palate has power, great extraction and depth, yet is elegant. The fruit is layered beautifully with a bounty of flavours: cassis, black plum, spiced bramble, chocolate and coffee. The firm, yet ripe, tannins give a lovely supple texture and the finish has great length and finesse.*

**Tasting notes 12<sup>th</sup> February 2011:** *The 2009 Larose is still so youthful, but with massive potential. The bouquet is reminiscent of wildflowers and wild berries with some savoury roast meat characters starting to develop. On the palate the structure is still firm and tightly wound. Luscious fruit through the mid-palate, promises great potential for the coming years, wonderful length!*

**Recommended drinking after a tasting at 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013:** *Still a young wine, another 5 years and the wine will open, and continue to develop for the next 10 years.*

## Stonyridge Larose 2008

2008 was a record breaking year in many aspects. At this time (August 2013) it remains the hottest vintage on record, with January and most of February exceeding 30 degrees Celsius, perfect for ripening our backbone Cabernet Sauvignon. Crop levels were high but not excessive. The fruit came in between March 17<sup>th</sup> and April 12<sup>th</sup>, the earliest start and finish to a Stonyridge vintage ever. Crop levels, while high, were balanced with a strong healthy canopy, leading to the largest amount of Larose ever produced in a single year

**Encépagement:** Cabernet Sauvignon 37%, Malbec 29%, Merlot 16%, Petit Verdot 16%, Cabernet Franc 2%

Winemaker: Martin Mackenzie

1565 cases produced

**Tasting notes on release:** *Our flagship wine is dark and dense with great fruit expression from the five Bordeaux varieties. Cassis, plum, berries, our customary talc-like fragrance with sumptuous chocolate, tobacco and earth on the nose and fine spices, cedar and pencil shavings derived from the oak. A big mouth filling wine, matured in 70% new French oak this wine is engulfed by the huge ripe fruit. Richly flavoured and beautifully complex, with immaculate tannin and structure, the aromas flow through to the palate which is flooded with ripe dark fruits and well integrated French oak. This wine is greatly concentrated with a finish that lasts and lasts.*

**Tasting notes 12<sup>th</sup> February 2011:** *Smoky, toasty, cassis and fine gravel, burnt rose, pronounced oak. The palate in contrast is gentle with elegance. Grammy-award-winning tannins, a wine yet to release its full potential - in fact it reminds me of a Chateau Lafite I once had - just outstanding!*

**Recommended drinking after a tasting at 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013:** *While the temptation to open a bottle of this superstar vintage might be high, patience will reward those who seek perfection. This Larose clearly has a long life ahead of it and will reward cellaring for 10- 20 years from release date.*

## Stonyridge Larose 2007

2007 started with a cool spring, followed by a La Nina summer. Fruit set was down on average, and the summer was wetter than average through January and February. The crucial ripening period of March and April was dry and slightly above the usual temperatures for autumn. The fruit came in with good numbers and great concentration.

**Encépagement:** Cabernet Sauvignon 55%, Malbec 21%, Merlot 11%, Petit Verdot 11%, Cabernet Franc 2%

Winemaker: Martin Mackenzie

790 cases produced

**Tasting notes on release:** *The wine looks dark and dense, with quite a generous nose for this stage, exhibiting ripe berry fruit, cassis and cedar oak with hints of sweet mint, chocolate and earthy notes. There is a brooding complexity lurking beneath the bright primary fruit.*

*The aromas lead faithfully on to the palate which is flooded with rich fruit. The customary ripe tannins are well balanced by fine acidity and the judicious use of oak adds to the structure of the wine.*

**Tasting notes 12<sup>th</sup> February 2011:** *The nose reminds me of Xmas pudding packed with berries, raisins and supported by violets and a subtle hint of lavender. The palate is gamey, rich and complex and layered only showing you tiny glimpses of the full picture of a full flavoured mouth filling wine. Even after decanting the wine for more than 2 ½ hours - this wine is packed with detail that can't be completely appreciated this young in its life, though please be clear the wine is no less enjoyable - though it is clear there is still so much to learn and explore.*

**Recommended drinking after a tasting at 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013:** *Cellar for another 3-5 years, will hold for another 10+.*

## Stonyridge Larose 2006

A very hot early season, January averaged over 30 degrees maximum temperature, the perfect time for colour and tannin development in the berries. Crop levels were at an average level. Again a small percentage of pressings were declassified to Airfield, while Vina del Mar had its highest crop to date (an amazing 900 kilos out of one hectare!).

**Encépagement:** Cabernet Sauvignon 48%, Malbec 17%, Petit Verdot 17%, Merlot 13%, Cabernet Franc 5%

Winemaker: Martin Mackenzie

790 cases produced

**Tasting notes on release:** *The wine has a crimson purple hue. Sweet cassis, mint and plum envelope the nose supported by classy French oak. The wine carries an incredible freshness and liveliness on the palate from the well balanced acidity, and very fine grained velvet tannins.*

**Tasting notes from a vertical tasting 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2012:** *Hints of black liquorice, tobacco smoke, mocha-coffee and sautéed blueberries in a pan with a dash of sugar and alcohol. On the palate you have spice, and Tuscan aged ham all balanced with confident tannin and oak. It is a delicate, yet empowering wine to savour for many years to come.*

**Recommended drinking after a tasting at 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013:** *Tasting beautifully at the moment, but like any true Bordeaux, patience is the key. Cellar for another 10-15 years.*

## Stonyridge Larose 2005

The summer of 2005 was very hot and dry. We had absolutely no rainfall over the very tight (circa 3 weeks) harvest period of 21 March till 14<sup>th</sup> April. As a result of a low fruit set and resulting stunning concentration across all varieties, no Airfield was made in 2005, meaning 100% of Stonyridge's Bordeaux varieties were blended into Larose.

**Encépagement:** Cabernet Sauvignon 44%, Malbec 21%, Petit Verdot 15%, Merlot 15%, Cabernet Franc 5%

Winemaker: Martin Mackenzie

505 cases produced

**Tasting notes on release:** *Impressively concentrated with ample, firm yet supple tannins and great fruit weight giving the wine excellent texture and structure. Plenty of rich ripe fruit on the palate balanced with cedar and cigar box notes from the oak.*

**Tasting notes from a vertical tasting on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2012:** *Big, rich, succulent style yet powerful, concentrated, meaty, savoury, sweet spicy oak. Beautiful fine tannin structure from the outset - tannins still have grip, yet have a great deal of finesse.*

**Recommended drinking after a tasting at 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013:** *This Larose has a long life ahead of it. Still young in the bottle, the wine is starting to soften out. With careful cellaring open the first bottle in two years, but best enjoyed 2017-2025.*

## Stonyridge Larose 2004

Excellent weather from November through to the end of January ensured a good balanced crop with great ripeness and intensity. A nervous period followed as the rain fell through most of February before drying up for the duration of the harvest. A feeling of a great vintage came with a dramatic downpour as the last of the fruit entered the winery.

**Encépagement:** Cabernet Sauvignon 54%, Malbec 19%, Petit Verdot 15%, Merlot 8%, Cabernet Franc 4%

Winemaker: Martin Mackenzie

1140 cases produced

**Tasting Notes on release:** *Huge and intense with notes of plum and ripe black cherry. Full bodied, sinewy, lots of concentration this will surely open out with time. Muscular, brutish, this is one impressive wine...*

**Tasting notes from a vertical tasting on 18 Feb 2012:** *Dark hard lollies, berries and a subtle aroma of liquorice allsorts note on the nose. The oak character surrounds the sweetness, integration at its finest. As the wine hits your palate you are greeted and overwhelmed with power and length of flavour, you find yourself putting your wine glass down and drawing in breath.*

**Recommended drinking after a tasting at 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013:** *With deep concentration and exceptional power, this wine is still a little young, and I would recommend leaving for at least another couple of years before opening your first bottle. Drink in 8-12 years*

## Stonyridge Larose 2003

A windy spring led to low fruit set before a very late summer. Picking was delayed due to the cool summer; due to this the “hangtime” was extended, leading to greater complexity and flavour development. A small percentage of wine (5 barrels) was declassified to Airfield, while a new estate wine emerged from a little vineyard down the road- Luna Negra.

**Encépagement:** Cabernet Sauvignon 44%, Malbec 22%, Petit Verdot 21%, Merlot 11%, Cabernet Franc 2%

Winemaker: Martin Mackenzie

760 cases produced

**Tasting notes on release:** *The wine has a deep purple red hue. Big earthy leathery aroma becoming quite jammy sweet with vanillin oak, cherry and cassis. Remarkably soft and gentle in the palate. Succulent with plum and juicy blackberry and blackcurrant fruit, and cedar with cigar box and spice.*

**Tasting Note from a vertical tasting on the 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2012:** *I’m immediately drawn to the dramatic colours. The nose instantly reminds Brandy-Snaps filled with chocolate cream, mocha-coffee and the odd blackberry on the side. The palate is firm, but the tannins have softened out over the past decade. I would advise careful cellaring and enjoy this ever changing vintage.*

**Recommended drinking after a tasting at 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013:** *Sitting nicely at present, but with the tannins softening and tertiary aromas developing, sit on this wine for another 5-8 years.*

## Stonyridge Larose 2002

A warm gentle spring combined with new plantings coming on stream meant this was the biggest ever vintage for Stonyridge. The summer that followed was warm and even with only light rainfall meant the fruit was picked in superb, ripe condition.

**Encépagement:** Cabernet Sauvignon 49%, Malbec 30%, Petit Verdot 9%, Merlot 7%, Cabernet Franc 5%

Winemaker: Martin Mackenzie

1550 cases produced

**Tasting notes on release:** *Full, youthful hue. Fleshy and vibrant, with fresh, ripe, sweet-fruit flavours of plums and spice. Crammed with fruit and has a very firm structure at this young stage, promising long cellar potential.*

**Tasting notes from a vertical tasting on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013:** *Dark fruits, tobacco and mocha notes on the nose with some leathery complexity underneath. The palate is full round and generous with well integrated fine tannins supporting the sweet fruit perfectly. Plenty of length and persistence on the finish.*

**Recommended drinking after a tasting at 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013:** *Exceptionally good drinking now, but no rush as this vintage will continue to be great drinking over the next 5-7 years*

## Stonyridge Larose 2001

A tricky vintage, the summer was late and sun, at times, difficult to find. Using intense viticulture and low yields (less than 15 hectolitres per hectare) we were able to maintain a high quality of fruit with a great concentration. A sensational crop of Petit Verdot came to the rescue and gives the 2001 that extra body.

**Encépagement:** Cabernet Sauvignon 56%, Petit Verdot 15%, Merlot 11%, Malbec 9%, Cabernet Franc 9%

Winemaker: Martin Mackenzie

660 cases produced

**Tasting notes at release:** *Ripe fruit with notes of chocolate and black olives supported by a well-balanced oak influence giving a cedar lift on the nose. Ripe fine tannins support the multi-layered fruit driven palate and the finish is very long.*

**Tasting notes from a vertical tasting on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013:** *Aromas are clean and fragrant with darker fruits to the fore and secondary notes of chocolate and leather. On the palate the wine has good attack with excellent structure, balance and freshness. There is great purity to the fruit and the finish is long.*

**Recommended drinking after a tasting at 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013:** *The 2001 is drinking beautifully currently, will already be at its best but with some life left yet. Will not be a twenty year cellaring vintage of Larose however.*

## Stonyridge Larose 2000

Another top season following on from the 1999, but possibly even better, slightly drier and warmer allowed for maximum flavour development. A kind spring meant a good even crop. Considered the top vintage of Larose at the time of release.

**Encépagement:** Cabernet Sauvignon 55%, Merlot 23%, Malbec 10%, Cabernet Franc 8%, Petit Verdot 4%

Winemaker: Martin Mackenzie

1225 cases produced

**Tasting notes on release:** *Full youthful hue. It is very classy and concentrated. Classic claret style, with deep cassis and spice flavours, very dense, savoury and complex. Firm finish. Hugely fragrant, a star vintage.*

**Tasting notes from a vertical tasting on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013:** *Crushed violet and wild mushroom over rich black and red fruits, supported by fine oak. Rich and full on the palate with excellent length and weight.*

**Recommended drinking after a tasting at 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013:** *The 2000 is still vibrant and youthful and will be great drinking for the next ten years.*

## Stonyridge Larose 1999

For three months of the summer of vintage 1999, the daily maximum averaged over 28 degrees, with virtually no rain. Quantities of fruit were good and the resulting wine is considered an excellent Larose.

**Encépagement:** Cabernet Sauvignon 72%, Merlot 14%, Cabernet Franc 7%, Malbec 5%, Petit Verdot 2%

1150 cases produced

**Tasting notes on release:** *Dense, youthful colour. Very rich, dark berry flavours to the fore, with mint and leather characters adding complexity. Excellent weight and concentration.*

**Tasting notes from a vertical tasting on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013:** *Aromas are intense and pure dark fruits dominate. There are layers of coffee and game. On the palate the wine has wonderful structure, balance and freshness. There is great richness to the fruit and excellent length still.*

**Recommended drinking after a tasting at 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013:** *The 1999 Larose is showing perfectly at this point in time, will be starting a gradual decline over the next 3 years.*

## Stonyridge Larose 1998

An often overlooked vintage on Waiheke due to the standout vintage in Hawke's Bay that year, this vintage was none the less a good vintage on Waiheke. The weather conditions were slightly warmer and a little wetter than average. The resulting wine is considered a classic Larose, while not being a blockbuster it has finesse, purity and balance.

**Encépagement:** Cabernet Sauvignon 71%, Merlot 14.5%, Cabernet Franc 7%, Malbec 4.5%, Petit Verdot 3%

450 cases produced

**Tasting notes on release:** *Notes of violets and lavender are subtly integrated with tobacco and dark berries - with a hint of liquorice and silky tannins guiding you like a well experienced tour guide - giving you confidence to take the next step and explore more into the darkness of the cave.*

**Tasting notes from a vertical tasting on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013:** *Beautiful upfront florals and lifted fruit, bright and pure on the nose. Dances on the palate and has exceptional balance and freshness to the fruit and tannin with a long finish.*

**Recommended drinking after a tasting at 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013:** *Good current drinking Larose, although it will reward cellaring for a further 5-7 years.*

## Stonyridge Larose 1997

Strong winds in the spring severely affected the cropping levels of every variety; there was even evidence of salt burn in some areas of the vineyard. The summer following was above average with good heat and relatively dry. All the fruit was harvested in great condition, at excellent ripeness levels.

**Encépagement:** Cabernet Sauvignon 64%, Merlot 20%, Malbec 7.3%, Cabernet Franc 6.8%, Petit Verdot 1.9%

600 cases produced

**Tasting notes at release:** *Rich youthful colour. A lovely, fresh and vibrantly fruity wine with intense flavours of cassis and plums and a rich spiciness. Very concentrated, mouth filling and long.*

**Tasting notes from a vertical tasting on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013:** *On the nose the '97 displays ripe black and red fruits with star anise and smoky oak in the background. There is great sense of purity and fragrance. On the palate vibrant acidity and robust tannin structure frame the fleshy core of fruit perfectly.*

**Recommended drinking after a tasting at 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013:** *The '97 Larose is drinking perfectly currently, but should continue to be good drinking over a 5 year period.*

## Stonyridge Larose 1996

The '96 vintage was an absolute star, and still one of the top rated years of the Larose. A neutral season (neither El Niño nor La Niña) which can go either way, in '96 went the right way, warm long and even. This allowed good 'hang time' to develop concentrated and complex characters in the wine.

**Encépagement:** Cabernet Sauvignon 66%, Merlot 17%, Malbec 10%, Cabernet Franc 6%, Petit Verdot 1%

950 cases produced.

**Tasting notes at release:** *Dense, purplish hue. Scented bouquet of cassis and mint. Very youthful and fresh, with concentrated blackcurrant, red berry and mint flavours framed by firm chewy tannins. Should be very long lived.*

**Tasting notes from a vertical tasting on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013:** *Rich, concentrated and very complex. Plummy fruit, chocolate caramel and coffee on the nose. The structure is finely detailed and the wine has impeccable balance, poise and massive length.*

**Recommended drinking after a tasting at 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013:** *Approaching or at its best presently. If you prefer with fresher fruit, then drink now, it will however keep developing beautifully over a 6 year period.*

## Stonyridge Larose 1995

One of the weaker vintages of the '90s, the harvest was affected by regular rain events before and during harvest. Ruthless management and careful selection were required to get the most out of a tricky season. Due to the season, over 60% of the total harvest was de-classified to second and third tier wines, thereby preserving the quality expected of Larose.

**Encépagement:** Cabernet Sauvignon 60%, Malbec 17.5%, Merlot 15.5%, Cabernet Franc 6%, Petit Verdot 1%

800 cases produced

**Tasting notes at release:** *An amazing wine of deep colour, flavours saturated with ripe plums, berry fruit and vanilla with layers of soft textured tannins.*

**Tasting notes from a vertical tasting on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013:** *Round, plump fruit with some secondary leather and game characters. Generous and complex. Palate is soft and yielding with beautiful balance and finesse.*

**Recommended drinking after a tasting at 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013:** *At its peak (or slightly past) now. Should be drunk now or over the short term.*

## Stonyridge Larose 1994

1994 was another El Niño summer; unfortunately this was preceded by a difficult spring with high winds affecting the flowering across all the varieties. Crops were down substantially but the quality was fantastic.

**Encépagement:** Cabernet Sauvignon 65.7%, Merlot 23.3%, Malbec 6.4, Cabernet Franc 4.4%, Petit Verdot 0.2%

425 cases produced

**Tasting notes at release:** *The '94 Larose is another dark, dense purple and tannic monster, in fact it is the most tannic Larose to date. At a recent tasting by the Stonyridge team, we were surprised and delighted by the incredibly intense spicy floral/fruit bouquet. On the palate of this dark and concentrated heavily oaked beast, we picked up vanilla, blackberries, chocolate and mint. This is the 'Larose' that has boldly gone beyond simple varietal fruit and oak qualities, nosing where no wine has gone before... the final frontier, "Life Jim, but not as we know it"*

**Tasting notes from a vertical tasting on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013:** *A brooding dark and complex wine. The nose shows great concentration with rich dusky fruit, moist earth and smoky oak. The firm tannin is still youthful, with sweet plummy fruit generous in support. Wonderful length, a truly great vintage of Larose.*

**Recommended drinking after a tasting at 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013:** *The 1994 vintage Larose is at its peak, and will continue to be for the next 3-5 years, before it starts a very slow graceful decline.*

## Stonyridge Larose 1993

1993 was a very typical El Niño season which was dry and long, the south west winds providing some moderation in temperature. Average cropping levels.

**Encépagement:** Cabernet Sauvignon 57%, Merlot 27.4%, Malbec 9.7%, Cabernet Franc 5.8%

725 cases produced

**Tasting notes at release:** *The '93 Larose is dark, dense purple and tannic, it has huge fruit and is heavily oaked. When young, it is a wine that will grip you by the neck and give you a good shake. The cellar staff liken it to bungy jumping into a swimming pool filled with blackberries, boysenberries and vanilla pods...although none of us have tried doing that.*

**Tasting notes from a vertical tasting on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013:** *Cassis Blackberry and red gravel dust on the nose with a strong toasty oak presence. The tannins are still firm but well integrated, the palate is long and even with good persistence.*

**Recommended drinking after a tasting at 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013:** *While past its glory days, the 1993 still continues to be great drinking and while over its peak, not in steep decline if cellaring has been appropriate.*