

# LIFE OF RILEY

DECEMBER 2010



## MOUNT RILEY SAUVIGNON BLANC— STILL FLYING HIGH

Mount Riley 2010 Sauvignon Blanc has just been selected by **Cathay Pacific Business Class** as their Sauvignon Blanc for 2011. Given the rigorous selection process and extremely high quality required to be poured on Cathay business class, we're extremely proud. This is the second major airline tender our Sauvignon Blanc has won this year (we were also the first Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc to be poured on British Airways business class in 2010). Mount Riley's Senior Winemaker Matt said *"in the air acidity in wines tends to be more noticeable, I put our success on airlines down to our moderate yields which ensures quality over quantity and results in wine with perfect balance and great fruit intensity & concentration."*

## THE MOUNT RILEY ROWING CREW—DRAMA ON THE WAIRAU RIVER!

The Mount Riley winery and vineyard crew competed in the Blenheim Rowing Club's 2010 Inter-Winery rowing regatta in September. The crew got off to a dramatic start with crew member Jane being thrown out of the boat into a very cold Wairau River in our very first race! The team came back after its rocky start to beat Cloudy Bay and win the plate for the second year running.



One cox plus only 7 rowers—the crew just after Jane went for her swim... spot the empty seat at the front of the boat!

## BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Mount Riley was the only winery selected as a finalist in NZTE's export awards this year. Given the difficult market conditions in the wine industry at present Mount Riley was thrilled to be selected from the many small/medium exporting companies in New Zealand and congratulates Pumpkin Patch, the overall winner.

## AWARDS UPDATE

**Sauvignon Blanc 2010:** 4.5 stars *Winestate* & in their taste off for wine of the year.

**Robert Parker's Wine Advocate Magazine:** reviewed our current 17 Valley Range. Our Chardonnay & Pinot Noir received 91+ points and Sauvignon Blanc 90 points.

**Pinot Noir 2009:** 4 Stars & best buy in *Cuisine's* annual Pinot Noir tasting.

**17 Valley Chardonnay 2009:** went gold at the Air NZ Wine Awards, a great result for a wine that's already won a gold and trophy at the International Chardonnay Challenge and 5 stars from Michael Cooper and the *Winestate Magazine* team.

## WINERY & VINEYARD UPDATE

We welcome Noel Eaton back to our vineyard team. Noel was Mount Riley's first vineyard manager, responsible for establishing most of Mount Riley's vineyards and is one of Marlborough's most experienced vineyard managers. Noel left us for a few years but returned in September and we're thrilled to have him back.

Out in the vineyards, since budburst in September our vines have shot away. We got through the spring frost risk season without any damage and are hoping for settled weather over the next few weeks when flowering takes place.

In the winery, we've been busy bottling. We released our first ever Syrah in October and are thrilled with the wine. We're also extending the winery by building a new office complex, laboratory, tasting room and staffroom which will be finished by Christmas.

