— THOMAS'S TREASURE —

Blackenbrook

2008
DESSERT RIESLING
NELSON

#### Viticulture

- Moutere clay with a layer of sandy loam
- 100% fruit from our **Home block**
- Clones: Gm 110 and Gm 198-19
- Weather Conditions: Excellent spring weather resulted in almost perfect pollination. A warm summer brought along healthy canopy growth.
- Just before harvest we received a major rainfall, causing heavy botrytis in our Riesling Block. Some grape bunches turned into beautiful noble botrytis and we carefully hand-picked them on 30 April with an amazing 55 Brix.

### Thomas's Treasure

This wine has always been the pride and joy of our then 5year old son Thomas. He helped picking the tiny, completely botrytised bunches, sampled the onectaro at pressing and helped his Dad filling his very first barrel: a 120L Acacia barrel imported especially from Slowenia.

For the next 3 years only Thomas and his Dad were allowed to sample this special wineí but the long wait for the rest of us was well worth it ó the wine has turned out as a truly amazing Treasure!

## **Tasting Notes**

An explosion of treacle, Manuka and pine nut flavours is backed up by a succulent texture, juicy acidity and tremendous length - slightly decadent!

## Winemaking

- Gently crushed before an extended maceration period
- Whole bunch pressed

- Gravity-fed from press area to main winery
- Natural fermentation in a 120L Acacia barrel especially imported from Slovenia.
- Maturing on its lees in barrel for **3 years**.
- No racking, no sulphur or other additives during these first three years
- **No fining** pre-bottling, gentle filtration
- Bottled on 2 August 2012 in 375ml bottles under screw capsule
- 8.0% Alcohol
- only 309 small bottles produced
- matured for 2 years in bottle before release in December 2013

#### Accolades

# 5 Stars Michael Cooper

The 2008 vintage, released in 2013, is indeed a 'treasure' ó one of the most striking sweet wines ever produced in New Zealand.

Only 309 bottles were produced ó but what a wine! The bouquet is immediately arresting, with an exceptional intensity of apricot and honey aromas, showing real complexity. A wine of great beauty, it is oily and sweet, almost syrupy, with honey, apricot and tea flavours, good acid spine and exceptional depth.

# 5 Stars or 9/100 from Bob Campbell MW

Deep golden colour that looks a bit like a mature Liqueur Muscat. Intense and very sweet wine supported by strong acidity that stops any suggestion of cloying and no doubt helps the wine age. Toffee, honey, musk and just a hint of wildflowers. A very unique wine, hard to rate. **Very impressive**.