



*Saving Grace*

## Andrew Brown Winemaker



*Andrew Brown (Brownie) is our winemaker. It was in a student flat in Christchurch that he discovered the wonders of wine, and although winemaking wasn't his course of study at the time, he vowed he would come back and study it at a later date. A few career choices later (including as a Kiwi Experience bus driver), he did just that. He is a big music lover, (he's vox/guitar, in a band) and his Spotify playlist is (mostly) coveted, spanning eclectic genres and eras. His music knowledge is much valued at Thursday quiz time—he is also a bit of a film buff which comes in handy too. When it comes to wine he is all about the aromatics, specifically Riesling - due to it's 'stylistic diversity'.*

*He has always been a fan of the wine produced in the Waipara Valley, believing the climate and longer growing season bodes well for producing great examples of aromatic white wines and Pinot Noir. It's the vivid expression of the varieties that intrigues Brownie - it's not the easiest place to grow grapes, the Valley being on the edge of viticultural nirvana, and this has his respect. He also holds a lot of admiration for the viticultural team, and enjoys working with such a committed crew who love the region and know the vineyards and surrounding environments like the back of their hands.*

*When making wine, vineyard expression and balance are important to Brownie. Respecting each site's quirks and characters and honouring the work the vineyard team puts in to grow good fruit are forefront in his mind. Each year he says the sites reveal more about themselves and the satisfying part is allowing those characteristics to show in your glass.*

*Often found with his tunes on while blending wine, Brownie's southern roots keep him real. He makes 'smashable wines that are meant to be drunk with good people and tasty food' (direct quote). We couldn't ask for more than that.*