

# 2009 DOUG WISOR MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



## Experience Summary

Summary of experience for Justin Carr, the 2009 recipient of the Douglas Wisor Memorial Scholarship at Craggy Range Winery, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand.

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## EXPERIENCE SUMMARY

### THE VALUE FOR ME

The Doug Wisor Memorial Scholarship experience was exceptional for me, the memories of which have only grown stronger since I returned from New Zealand. As I've told many, I was quite reluctant to leave! I feel I gained at least a sense of why New Zealand was so special to Doug. The country is a beautiful outdoor playground with great food and kind people, an exciting place to be part of a growing wine industry. One of the great values of the scholarship experience was also learning why Doug was so special to New Zealand.

Doug's impact was most apparent physically in the facilities he was instrumental in designing, the vineyards he contributed to selecting and developing and the world class wines that continue to be produced as a result. The design of the facility permits a winemaking range from the very small scale to the very large, all with precision and features that lend to efficiency and safety. My experience within this framework provided valuable and ample opportunity to work in the vineyards, lab and cellar with fruit from all over New Zealand including Hawkes Bay, Martinborough, Marlborough, Nelson, Waipara, Waitaki and Central Otago. The diversity of the winemaking experience extended further with the differing styles of the two head winemakers as well as the market segment influences for the various tier products. In addition to Adrian Baker and Rod Easthope, there was much to glean from the considerable and varied experience of their assistants, cellar master, vineyard managers and crew. For the budding winemaker visiting New Zealand, there may be no better place to continue to develop their skills than Craggy Range.

Vineyard work included sampling in several vineyard sites in the Hawkes Bay as well as the Te Muna Vineyard in Martinborough. In the lab, I completed routine analysis on collected samples for Brix, pH, TA, SO<sub>2</sub> (Aspiration), VA (Cash), RS (Clini, Rebelein), Malic/Lactic (Chromatography, Enzymatic), cell counts, turbidity, fining trials as well as daily fermentation monitoring. Cellar work included receiving fruit and weighing, sorting, crusher/press operations, racking, filtration, juice & wine transfer, inoculations & additions, cap management (punchdowns, pumpovers, delastage), draining & pressing tanks, prepping & filling barrels, sanitizing, forklift operations and general winery maintenance.

At Craggy, it was Adrian Baker who frequently made a point of sharing anecdotes with me about Doug's career, friends and experiences in New Zealand. One benefit of the post-harvest tour of New Zealand was to meet and hear stories from the other people that Doug influenced as well. The additional value of the post-harvest tour is immeasurable. Two weeks touring many of the other great wineries of New Zealand is a truly unique opportunity to meet many gifted winemakers and vineyard managers, taste their wines and see the regional diversity of climate, soil and resulting fruit. The warm New Zealand hospitality included legends such as Ata Rangi, Cloudy Bay, Pegasus Bay, Felton Road, Rippon, Neudorf, Millton and many more. Seeing firsthand several of the vineyards from which Craggy Range sources grapes brought an additional understanding of place, especially the Te Muna vineyard, to the grapes and wines with which I'd recently worked. I firmly believe that we as winemakers must always be aware of the blinding influence of the regions and styles with which we are most familiar and work to keep our

scope broad. Getting to work with the range of fruit previously mentioned as well as the post-harvest tour greatly helped to broaden my palate and open my mind to many more winemaking styles and viticultural techniques.

Learning about and feeling connected to the impact that Doug had on Craggy Range and the winemaking community in New Zealand while honing my own skills in the process was a rewarding opportunity. I'll always value the friendships made and the memories of my time in New Zealand and I'm certain that the experience gained will continue to pay dividends for my career. I'm very grateful and honored to have been the 2009 scholarship recipient and I look forward to the day that I can contribute back so that others can continue to share in Doug's legacy.