

Seresin

LEAH PINOT NOIR - 2017

REGION: NEW ZEALAND



SERESIN

Michael Seresin was born in Wellington, New Zealand, but left in the 1960s, when sheep, not grapevines, covered the Wairau Plains. He settled in Italy, where he was captivated by Italian food and wine culture and began his career as a cinematographer. Over time Michael's interest in wine developed into a passion. In the early 1990s after investigating opportunities to start a winery in Italy, he became aware of the quality wines starting to emerge from his homeland. After visiting Marlborough, and falling in love with the Marlborough Sounds, Michael decided to purchase a home there, followed by the purchase of some land in the Wairau Valley, which became Seresin's Home Vineyard. He began planting vines and imported Tuscan olive varieties immediately along with significant plantings of native plant species.

Seresin, one of the first wineries in New Zealand to operate organic vineyards, released their first vintage was in 1996 and the winery was completed in mid-2000. A year later, the Tatou Vineyard was purchased and land in the Omaka Valley was purchased for development into what is now the Raupo Creek Vineyard. Seresin won the Marlborough District Council's 2009 Marlborough Environment Award.

In 2018, the Tatou vineyard and winery were sold to local NZ winemakers Ben Glover and Rhyann Wardman who was the inaugural assistant winemaker at

GRAPES / SOILS

Wine	Blend	Vine Age	Soil Type
Leah Pinot Noir	100% Pinot Noir	Over 20 years on average in 2015	Mixed alluvial silt, gravel and clay

THE WINE

Vineyard Profile

- 99.43% Raupo Creek Vineyard, a clay-rich hillside in Omaka Valley
- 0.57% Noa Vineyard, Waimakariri alluvial soils in Wairau Valley
- Clones: 10/5, 777, 115, 5 & Abel
- Yield: 6 tons/hectare

Harvest Notes

2017 was a memorable and challenging vintage. We had a wonderful warm start to the growing season, with good soil moisture helping the vines to grow well. We then experienced cold temperatures during flowering, resulting in lower yields and smaller bunches. The harvest itself was fast and furious, one of the most compact we have ever experienced with challenging rain events just before and during harvest. The resulting wines having strong natural acidity and intense fruit flavours from the colder season.

- Fruit hand-picked, destemmed and cool soaked in tank
- Must warmed, fermented with wild yeast, and the caps hand-plunged daily during fermentation
- Wine left on skins for 4-5 weeks, then drained, lightly pressed and transferred to aged French oak barriques
- Natural malolactic fermentation during 11 months maturation, then bottled lightly filtered and unfined



Winemaker's Notes

Exhibits bright, fragrant berry-fruit aromas, interlaced with spice and herbal notes. The wine is focused and concentrated, with a succulent fruit core, framed by fine-grained tannins and a mouth-watering acidity. An elegant and understated style with immediate appeal, but structure to last. Named after Michael Seresin's daughter, Leah.

Technical Information

- 100% Pinot Noir
- Alcohol: 13%
- Total Acidity: 6.4 g/l
- pH: 3.69
- RS: dry
- Total SO₂: 54ppm
- Certified Organic & Biodynamic; suitable for vegans and vegetarians

REVIEWS

Leah Pinot Noir – 2017

93 Points - Decanter, January, 2019

Made from a blend of handpicked organic fruit (worked biodynamically) from three estate vineyards, yielding just two bottles per vine. It has great concentration and purity of ripe cherry fruit, showing lovely vibrancy and freshness allied to fine tannins and fresh acidity. Elegant drinking now but with the structure to age.

Drinking Window 2019 – 2023

92 Points - Vinous, March, 2021

A brooding, full style that offers a dark plum and savory interpretation of Marlborough Pinot Noir. Hailing from the richer soils of the Omaka Valley rather than the free-draining valley floor, there's more depth and substance here and a fine coating of powdery tannins. Yields are pretty low (six tons/ha) and the finish is filled with damson fruit. Satisfying and sumptuous but there's no shortage of acidity keeping things fresh and lengthy. Drinking well now to five years. 2021 – 2026

91+ Points - © Wine Advocate, March, 2019

Seductive scents of roses, black tea, strawberries and cherries mark the nose of the 2017 Leah Pinot Noir. Medium-bodied, dusty and cool, it's long on the finish, ending on notes of pomegranate-like tartness. Drink 2019 – 2025

88 Points - Allen Meadow's Burghound, October, 2020

(Marlborough, 3,00 cases, 11 months in French Oak, 13%). There is a mentholated top note to the layered mix of both red and dark pinot fruit. The juicy, round and plush middle weight flavors possess good vibrancy and deliver good length on the noticeably oaked finale. 2023+

GENERAL INFO

Country	New Zealand
Region	South Island
Appellation(s)	Marlborough
Proprietors	Michael Seresin
Founded	1992, first vintage 1996
Winemaker	Tamra Kelly-Washington
Annual Production	30,000 9L cases (including Momo)
Farming (Sustainable, organic, biodynamic)	Biodynamic (grapes certified with Demeter), Organic (property and wines certified with Biogro NZ)