

# BRENT MARRIS

*Proprietor and Winemaker*



Brent inherited a solid foundation for a life devoted to winemaking and viticulture. He grew up on one of the first contract vineyards in Marlborough established by his parents in 1978. Inspired and encouraged by his pioneering, viticultural father, John Marris, he graduated from Roseworthy Agricultural College (South Australia) with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Oenology (winemaking), thus becoming Marlborough's first locally born and raised, qualified winemaker.



With over 40 years of grape growing, winemaking and marketing experience, his history of crafting wines for the world are testament to his skill and passion. Brent is one of New Zealand's most respected winemakers and has

been at the forefront of New Zealand's viticultural development. His outstanding ability to blend varietals in a manner that best represents regional style and character is renowned.

Brent started his career as Chief Winemaker for Delegat's Wine Estate and Oyster Bay. In 1994 he founded Wither Hills Vineyards, selling this to Lion Nathan in 2002.

In 2003, searching for a new project, Brent found an exceptional 265ha property on the banks of the Waihopai River in Marlborough, a property that would become the home of his new company Marisco Family Vineyards and "The Ned" brand of wines.

Due to the unprecedented success of "The Ned", Leefield Station (2,300ha) was purchased, also in the Waihopai Valley and just up the road, increasing the family company vineyard holdings to approximately 1,000ha along with a further 1,100ha of sheep and beef farming plus 300 ha of wonderful native bush.

Supported by his wife Rosemary and four daughters, Marisco Family Vineyards is the proud producer of well-known brands The Ned, The Kings Series, Leefield Station and The Craft Series, and now exports to over 15 countries around the world.