



Our Story Through the Decades

- 1977** ● Kim and Jeanette Goldwater are inspired to buy a beautiful property on Waiheke Island. As yachties very familiar with the Hauraki Gulf, they had fallen in love with Waiheke Island.
- 1978** ● Planting of Cabernet Sauvignon begins in what we now call the Cliff Block. Goldwater Vineyard is born against the advice of many experts of the day who doubt the pioneering viticultural efforts on Waiheke will be successful.
- 1982** ● The first vintage is harvested. Goldwater Cabernet Sauvignon 1982 is a small vintage that Kim and Jeanette Goldwater thought would be sufficient to share with their friends. It immediately attracts attention and gives rise to the need for further plantings.
- 1985** ● Goldwater Estate branding starts and Merlot is introduced to the blend with Cabernet Sauvignon.
- 1987** ● A breakthrough vintage after a wonderful growing season. What is recognised as a world class Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot is created.
- 1992** ● The first Goldwater Marlborough wine is produced.
- 1996** ● Additional Waiheke vineyard land is acquired across the road from the homestead vineyard with the primary aim of supplementing the Goldwater portfolio with a world class Chardonnay.
- 1998** ● Gretchen Goldwater and Ken Christie join Kim and Jeanette Goldwater to develop the family business. The first Goldwater Zell Chardonnay is produced. Goldwater estate joins the Sustainable Winegrowing pilot programme.
- 2001** ● Goldwater Estate joins the Screwcap Initiative to investigate and promote the adoption of screwcaps as an alternative to cork closures.
- 2003** ● The first Goldwater Hawkes Bay wine is produced.
- 2006** ● The Goldwater Estate business is merged with Vavasour Wines within The New Zealand Wine Fund with the Goldwater family holding a significant shareholding stake but the Waiheke vineyards remain in Goldwater family ownership.
- 2009** ● The shareholders of The NZ Wine Fund agree to sell that business to Bill Foley, a US investor in the wine industry. The Goldwater family begin discussions with the University of Auckland about the opportunities and benefits of having students, researchers and winemakers working closely together.
- 2010** ● Gretchen Goldwater and Ken Christie create Goldie Wines at the family's Waiheke vineyard and the excellent 2010 vintage is harvested.
- 2011** ● The Goldwater family finalises the transfer of the Goldie Vineyard and the Goldie Wines business to the University of Auckland on a significantly philanthropic basis so that a world leading wine science centre can be established alongside the ongoing boutique Goldie Wines operations.