

Wine Company Category Candidates



Drew Ellis,

**MARLBOROUGH
GRAPE
GROWERS
COOPERATIVE**

Originally from Long Island, New York, I arrived in Marlborough in 2003. I have held various roles in both viticulture and winemaking, before taking up an opportunity to work directly with growers in 2007 including working with the Marlborough Grape Growers Cooperative from its inception in 2012. After 20 years in Marlborough, I have a first-hand knowledge of the highs and lows of the wine industry. Now more than ever, it is a time to be agile and to question why we do the things we do. My role as Winemaker for a grower-owned organization gives me a unique insight into the grower/winery relationship and the drivers operating on both sides. Being part of a small team, I have daily interactions with several local wineries, shipping and logistics, and international clients. This experience has given me a keen understanding of international markets and their changeable nature, and how this impacts business in Marlborough.

I'm passionate about Sauvignon Blanc and the Marlborough region. I believe that now more than ever we, as a region, need to work together to protect Marlborough and our place in the world of wine.



Jason Cook,

INDEVIN

**Ko Tahirangi te waka, Ko Tohoraha te maunga,
Ko Rangaunu te Moana, Ko Wharemaru te Marae,
Ko Ngāi Takoto te iwi**

Jason has a deep understanding of the Marlborough Wine Industry, arriving in 2015 to lead Indevin Group's Marlborough winemaking team as Production Winemaker.

In 2021 he broadened his experience with a role as Winery Transformation Manager, leading a team that implemented a suite of technology changes that have led to dramatic improvements in Indevin's winery processes.

He has recently been appointed as Group Winemaker, overseeing a talented team of winemakers from across the nation, with a goal to share the best of New Zealand with the world!

"I am motivated to become a member of the Marlborough Winegrowers Board to be able to:

- Contribute to the on-going promotion of Marlborough as one of the Great Wine Regions of the World.
- Foster creativity and innovation to deliver a sustainable future for our industry.
- Uphold quality winemaking standards/credentials our iconic region is known for.

I stand for the values of respect and integrity. I prioritize the well-being of our people and our community."