

Blank Canvas

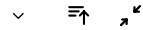
Founded in 2013, Blank Canvas is one of Marlborough's most exciting labels to emerge in the past decade. I have yet to find a wine from Blank Canvas that I wouldn't recommend wholeheartedly. Marlborough-based international wine consultant Matt Thomson and his wife Sophie Parker-Thomson the pair buy fruit and make the wines at a contract facility, but don't get snobbish about that. The influence of Thomson's yearly trips to make wine in Europe is reflected in the restraint and elegance of the Blank Canvas wines. This is natural winemaking without faults, done with cloudy juice, wild fermentation and no filtration. The 2024 Sauvignon Blanc is a real stand-out in the vintage, providing fine aromatics, line and length. If you think you don't like New Zealand Sauvignon, the Abstract cuvée will change your mind. The current vintage 2021 Abstract, from a low-yielding season, delivers ample intensity and concentration. The 2023 Reed Chardonnay is funky rather than fruit-filled, but it is another success from the Blank Canvas white stable. This producer has quickly established itself as a player in the upper echelon of the Marlborough premier league.

From *New Zealand Whites: Never Gonna Give You Up (Mar 2025)* by **Rebecca Gibb MW**

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2024 Riesling Anandale Farm

Release Price: **\$22**

Color: **White**

Rebecca Gibb MW, March 2025

Drinking Window: **2025 - 2036**

91



The 2024 Riesling Anandale Farm welcomes you like an old friend with a burst of immediate sweetness before it provides its firm line of acidity, skewering the wine's core. There's a push-and-pull reminiscent of the tension that you get when you stretch a piece of elastic in both directions. Attractive flavors of apple, violet and orange citrus combine, but they don't persist for as long as I'd like.

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2024 Sauvignon Blanc Holdaway Vineyard

Release Price: **\$17**

Color: **White**

Rebecca Gibb MW, March 2025

Drinking Window: **2025 - 2031**

94



The 2024 Sauvignon Blanc Holdaway Vineyard provides a vivid, vibrant, crisp and crunchy expression. It's finely flavored but not overt: expect a salty note like the sea air, lemon, passion fruit and snow pea flavors lending back up. Despite its assertiveness, it is finely poised and has a much better sense of direction than I do, providing line and length.

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2023 Chardonnay Reed Vineyard

Color: **White**

Rebecca Gibb MW, March 2025

Drinking Window: **2026 - 2034**

94



can expect substance and richness of texture on the mid-palate and through to the finish. Savory, smoky flavors and touches of white stone fruit and citrus linger long. This is young and firm—another year in bottle would serve it well.

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2023 Chardonnay Tano

Color: **White**

Rebecca Gibb MW, March 2025

Drinking Window: **2025 - 2032**

91



The 2023 Chardonnay Tano is a concentrated and attractively chewy, barrel-fermented expression of this cool corner at the bottom of the wine world. While ripe, it's tangy with lemon and nutty oak- and lees-derived flavors, which also bring roundness and additional substance to the vibrant fruit. The finish is medium-long, leaving a savory and salty impression. You can approach this now, but it will be delicious over the coming four to seven years, at a minimum.

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2023 Grüner Veltliner

Release Price: **\$24**

Color: **White**

Rebecca Gibb MW, March 2025

Drinking Window: **2025 - 2033**

92



Savory, structured and strident, this 2023 Grüner Veltliner packs a punch. It is intensely concentrated and firm with an austerity tempered by maturation on lees in puncheons, bringing richness and roundness to what would otherwise be angular edges and straight lines. Tangy, citrus-laced and almond pastry-like flavors linger on the savory, spicy finish. Even an Austrian would be proud to have made this.

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2021 Sauvignon Blanc Abstract

Color: **White**

Rebecca Gibb MW, March 2025

Drinking Window: **2025 - 2032**

96



White Bordeaux fans, get your coat; you've scored. The 2021 Sauvignon Blanc Abstract is a gorgeous, rich, full-bodied mouthful of intensely concentrated barrel-fermented Sauvignon. This is curvy, suave and sophisticated. Its ripe blackcurrant and fennel aromas meet lees-derived savory notes and nutty oak characters (aged in puncheons, 15% new). The 2021 has substance as well as fine acidity that provides mouthwatering refreshment. Its long finish is laced with layers of fragrance and texture. This has the componentry to age well, but it's delicious now, so why would you wait?

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