

John Belsham

An international winemaker, businessman, consultant and critic, John Belsham has 35 years of wine industry experience that has shaped and guided some of the most successful wine companies today.

As a student, Belsham learned to make wine in Bordeaux, France where he lived from 1977 to 1981. He is fluent in French.

A natural entrepreneur, he founded **Rapaura Vintners** in 1991, the first contract winemaking company in New Zealand; a business whose tipping point took NZ winemaking from a select few and made it a commercial and viable option for many.

Adding to his businesses, Belsham founded **Marlborough Oak Imports** in 1990 and founded **Foxes Island Wines** in 1992 to focus on premium, single vineyard wines.

In 1994, Belsham founded **Wine Focus**, a wine consulting practice focused in areas of business strategy, company organisation, technical expertise, winery design and executive recruitment. He has held a number of board positions and advisory roles.

An internationally respected wine judge and critic, he is the Wine Panel Chair for Australasia's leading food & wine magazine, **Cuisine** and has held the role of Wine Consultant to **Air New Zealand** since July 2000.

A founding member of the **New Zealand Screw Cap Initiative**, Belsham continues as chair of the NZSCI. He was a board member of the international conference **Pinot Noir NZ** in 2007 & 2010 and a distinguished speaker in 2004.

Belsham will be a featured speaker at the **2012 International Pinot Noir Symposium** in Germany.

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1977-1981

Chateau Saint Saturnin
Medoc, Bordeaux, France

1982-1983

Nobilo Vintners ▪ Assistant Winemaker
Auckland, New Zealand

1983-1986

Matua Valley ▪ Chief Winemaker
Auckland, New Zealand

1987-1990

Hunter's Wines ▪ Chief Winemaker
Marlborough, New Zealand

1990-today

Marlborough Oak Imports Ltd.
Founder, Director & Owner

Exclusive NZ import agent for
Dargaud & Jaegle, Vallaurine and Marc
Grenier French oak barrels.

1991-2000

Rapaura Vintners Ltd.
Founder, Director & Partner
Marlborough, New Zealand

Founded the first contract winemaking
company in NZ.

Initial client list included: Delegats, Villa
Maria, Matua Valley, Nobilo, Babich, Forrest
Estate, St. Clair & Allan Scott.

Divested of partnership in 2000.

1992-today

Foxes Island Wines Ltd.
Founder, Director & Owner

Producer of premium, single vineyard wines
in Marlborough, New Zealand.
www.foxes-island.co.nz

1994-today

Wine Focus Ltd.
Founder, Director & Owner

Provides technical winemaking
expertise, business strategy, company
organisation, winery design and
executive recruitment with global
reach and scope. Also serves as a board
member and advisor.

Partial client list (current & past) include:
Indevin, Craggy Range, Akarua,
Whitehaven, Mission Hill(Canada),
Chateau la Coste (France), Elephant Hill,
Clos Henri, Wairau River, Air New Zealand,
Cuisine Magazine

The Belsham Business Group

WINE | FOCUS



FOXES ISLAND
BY JOHN BELSHAM

moi

Marlborough Oak Imports Limited

