

esk valley.

Winemakers Reserve

HAWKES BAY

CABERNET SAUVIGNON MERLOT
MALBEC 2016



AWARDS & ACCOLADES

Gold - Hawkes Bay Wine Awards 2019

96/100 - Bob Campbell MW

93/100 & James Suckling's Top 100 NZ Wines of 2018 - James Suckling

4.5 stars & No. 6 - Cuisine Magazine

VINEYARD DESCRIPTION

This wine is a blend of grapes grown in the stony soils of the Gimblett Gravels. The vines in the Cornerstone and nearby Ngakirikiri and Twyford Gravels vineyards were planted in 1990, 1994 and 2002 respectively and cropped at low levels to produce grapes of the highest possible quality. Intensive viticultural practices such as shoot thinning, leaf plucking and bunch thinning were employed over the course of the growing season to further maximise the vineyard's potential.

WINEMAKING

The individual vineyard parcels were harvested separately and destemmed to our original 1930s concrete fermenters for fermentation. Indigenous and selected yeast cultures were employed and once active, the ferments were gently hand plunged 4 times daily. After a period of post-fermentation maceration, the ferments were pressed to barrel for malolactic fermentation. The wine was then aged in French oak barriques of which 40% were new, for 17 months before blending and bottling unfinned and unfiltered in December 2017.

WINEMAKER'S COMMENT

This Winemakers Reserve blend is widely regarded as one of the finest of New Zealand's red wines. Since the initial 1990 vintage, this is the first Cabernet-based vintage reflecting the nature of the season and our desire to produce the finest wine possible. Deeply coloured, showcasing black cherry, fruitcake, tobacco and subtle oak spice, this is a dry and complex and age-worthy wine.

IDEAL DRINKING

2018-2030+

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Region: Hawkes Bay

Variety: Cabernet Sauvignon 38%, Merlot 32%, Malbec 30%

Oak Use: French barriques (40% new)

Alcohol: 14.0%

pH: 3.77

Total Acidity: 5.7g/L

Contains sulphites. Suitable for gluten free diets.

Residual Sugar: 0.0g/L
Decanting of this wine is recommended as the winemaking techniques used may produce a natural deposit.

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