



Strength, structure, power and grace are the hallmarks of these wonderful blends which make some of the finest wines in the world. Sensitive winemaking and superb fruit have created this complex, moreish fine dry red which will evolve and reward over the decade ahead.

VINTAGE CONDITIONS

Hawkes Bay's 2019 growing season started with a wet spring, resulting in lower yields and smaller berry size. A warm and dry period after Christmas, extending to a long hot autumn with cool nights ensured fresh acidity and the harvested grapes displayed wonderful intense fruit flavour. Higher growing temperatures and lower rainfall, coupled with a lighter crop resulted in an early start to vintage.

VINEYARDS

Parcels of Merlot and Cabernet were sourced from old vines from three selected sites on the gravels of the old Ngaruroro River, and old vine Merlot from the Bridge Pa region.

Bridge Pa Triangle soils feature fine silt loam over red metal gravels, while the gravel sites protected by Roys Hill, feature gravel over fine silt. All these sites are free draining and low in fertility, resulting in struggling vines producing fruit of great concentration.

Low yielding vines, open canopy management, managed irrigation and Sustainable Winegrowing New Zealand farmed were common to all sites. Bridge Pa Merlot delivers ripe dark plum fruits which compliment the spicier brighter Merlot fruit from the gravels. Cabernet thrives on gravel sites and contributes, structure, acidity and fragrant blackcurrant fruit notes.

WINEMAKING

Fruit from the selected vineyard sites were hand harvested and chilled overnight before processing the following day. Chilled bunches were hand sorted and de-stemmed, and whole berries were transferred to open fermenters with some foot stomping. Whole bunches were also incorporated in some of the Merlot fermentations. The berries were cold soaked before fermentation, and once fermentation initiated, pumped over twice per day. Cool to moderate fermentation temperatures and pressed when dry. This blend was matured for approximately 20 months in new and seasoned French oak barriques. Blended in December 2020 and bottled in January 2021, the final blend is approximately 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon.

TASTING NOTE

A ripe expressive Merlot Cabernet blend which reflects the strength of the 2019 vintage. A concentration of lavender, plum and wild herbs are complexed with fine French oak. Abundant gentle tannins complete the structure of this wine, delivering lingering texture and lovely gracefulness. Elegant and beautifully fruited showing wonderful restraint which will age superbly.



ALCOHOL
14%

TOTAL
ACIDITY
6.2 G/L