



Generosity of dark cherry and black dorris plum. Fine-grained tannins and seamlessly integrated oak giving balance and structure.

VINTAGE CONDITIONS

The 2020 - 2021 growing season typically had warm days and cool nights and reflected our maritime climate. The growing degree days were slightly ahead of the long-term average while rainfall was average. Autumn was cool and dry, assisting ripening on the vine and maintaining vibrancy and acidity in the grapes. The vines were low yielding producing fruit of great intensity. Higher growing temperatures and lower rainfall, coupled with a lighter crop resulted in an early start to vintage.

VINEYARDS

Three vineyards from the Bridge Pa Triangle and the Gimblett Gravels were the source of the fruit for this Merlot Cabernet blend. The sites have in common, low yields, old vines, open canopy management, managed irrigation and Sustainable Winegrowing New Zealand accreditation. These free draining sites ripen Merlot first and then Cabernet, producing balanced acidity and weight of fruit which is impressive. A combination of rich, berry fruits from Bridge Pa Merlot and spicy Gimblett Gravels Merlot, produce a complex range of primary fruit. Cabernet has strength, structure and blackcurrant notes which provide perfect synergy.

WINEMAKING

Hand picked fruit is chilled overnight followed by early morning hand sorting, de-stemming and collecting whole berries for the open fermenters. Some foot stomping across ferments provides lovely release of fresh juice great for cold soaking. Some whole bunches incorporated with the Merlot parcels, accentuating fresh, lifted fruits. As ambient temperature is reached from cold soaking, the indigenous yeast initiate fermentation. We pump over twice a day at cool temperatures, capturing gentle tannin extraction and floral fruit notes. Cultured yeast complete the fermentation to dryness, which is followed by pressing and transfer to new and 1 year old French oak barriques. 21 months barrel maturation with regular racking completes the process. Blended in December 2022 and bottled February 2023, the blend is 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon.

TASTING NOTE

A blend that exhibits the boldness and power of Cabernet supported by plush velvety Merlot.

Lifted and intense aromatics of wild herbs and lavender. Generosity of dark cherry and black dorris plum. Fine-grained tannins and seamlessly integrated oak giving balance and structure. Full bodied yet elegant and understated wine that is drinking well currently and will reveal new layers over time.



ALCOHOL
13.5%

TOTAL
ACIDITY
6.6 G/L