



TASTING NOTES

Mission Reserve Gimblett Gravels Merlot 2017

Viticulture

This Merlot was selected from our vineyard on Mere Road, part of the highly regarded Gimblett Gravels sub-region. This vineyard has a generous silty phase that produces wines with soft mouth filling tannins. Our viticulturist used precision viticulture techniques to target appropriate treatments for the different soil phases. These treatments included targeting crop loads and canopy management appropriate for the different vigour levels on the different soil phases. Extensive fruit thinning was applied to the vines prior to veraison. This ensures fully mature grapes. The summer in 2017 was really warm which allowed the tannins in the fruit to ripen superbly. A cooler spell of weather in March produced fruit with lower anthocyanins which has resulted in wines with charming fruit but a little lighter than normal.

Winemaking

The fermentation was managed with minimal pump overs to avoid over-extracting the tannins. When the fermentation was complete there followed a period of post fermentation maceration to develop the mouth feel of the young wines. After running off the skins and pressing, the wine underwent MLF in tank before blending and transfer to French oak barrels for maturation. One third of the barrels were new. After 12 months a selection of the best barrels was selected and assembling to the final blend.

Tasting Notes

This is a harmonious and complex Hawke's Bay Merlot single vineyard wine. The aromas are ripe and perfumed and there is a very attractive spicy element from the high proportion of very tight grain oak from selected French oak forests.

This oak is in balance and respects the wine's structure and character. There is nice intensity on the front palate with very good tannins that are quite firm at bottling, but which will become silky with time. The wine is harmonious, showing balance and softness; a result of much dedication and precision in the vineyard and winery.

Cellar Potential

This wine will develop well over 10 years or longer

Alcohol	13.6 %
Acidity	5.4 g/l
pH Level	3.53

The birthplace of New Zealand wine... since 1851

