



ROD McDONALD WINES

ONE OFF

2014 Cabernet Merlot

Hawke's Bay

In 1998, depending on the yardstick you use, I made the best wine I've ever made.....from Cabernet Sauvignon.

At the time 1998 was regarded as the vintage of the century, so hot and dry it produced wines of incredible ripeness, density and structure.

Cabernet Sauvignon remains one of the most difficult varieties to grow and make well in Hawke's Bay. Getting it right is a lesson in pushing at the boundaries of what's possible in the Hawke's Bay climate. It needs the hottest sites, the lowest yields and the biggest kahones to hang the fruit out right until the end of the season.

Where the heat falls short of what's needed for perfection in Cabernet Sauvignon, we roll in Merlot. This blend of mostly Cabernet Sauvignon with some Merlot is a dense mouthful with red and dark fruits, tobacco and spice notes.....along with all important drinkability and balance. It's the first Cab dominant wine I've made in ten years and was an itch that needed scratching.

VINEYARD

Fruit was sourced from our vineyard and Marekakaho which in 2014 enjoyed an amazingly, long and settled season. This resulted in a long hang time for the fruit and development of lovely complex spicy flavours and ripe, rounded tannins. Vines were carrying less than 2 kg's per vine and the leaves around the bunch zone were removed to capture the full light and heat of the sun.

WINEMAKING

Hand harvested fruit was fully destemmed and 50% crushed into open top fermenters. It was plunged by hand up to three times daily (less at the beginning and end of ferment) for a three week period. The purpose was to make sure we were extracting all of the tannin we wanted without being overly hard on the fruit. Firm but soft and supple is what we were after. The wine was pressed and run to French oak for 20 months before it was blended and prepared for bottling.

TASTE

This blend of mostly Cabernet Sauvignon with some Merlot is a dense mouthful with red and dark fruits, tobacco and spice notes.....along with all important drinkability and balance.

Alcohol: 13.5

Standard Drinks: 8.0

Allergens: Contain Sulphites. Contain egg.



Rod McDonald, Proprietor & Winemaker

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