



VILLA MARIA

NEW ZEALAND



Reserve Merlot

GIMBLETT GRAVELS 2014

AWARDS & ACCOLADES

95/100 – Decanter World Wine Awards

95/100 – Bob Campbell MW

94/100 – Cameron Douglas MS

WINEMAKERS COMMENT

The 2014 Reserve Merlot reveals a saturated deep purple colour and perfumed aromatics of red and black plum, fruitcake and floral violet notes, interwoven with roasted coffee bean and complex herb nuances. The palate is concentrated and firmly structured in its youth with fine-grained tannins enhanced by integrated oak. This wine will certainly benefit and gain additional complexity from careful cellaring over the next decade.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| REGION: | Gimblett Gravels, Hawkes Bay |
| VARIETIES: | 100% Merlot |
| ALCOHOL: | 13.5% |
| PH: | 3.5 |
| TOTAL ACIDITY: | 6.1g/L |
| RESIDUAL SUGAR: | 0.26g/L |





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VINEYARD & WINEMAKING

VINEYARD DATA

VINEYARDS: 60% Twyford, 40% Omahu
VINEYARD YIELD: 6T/HA

2014 in Hawkes Bay was simply a superb red wine vintage and a very welcome follow-up to the highly acclaimed 2013 vintage. The region was treated to one of the warmest growing seasons in recent records (warmer than 2013) with intermittent rainfall events, enough to encourage vine health and flavour development without bringing on disease. Typical Hawkes Bay nights moderated daytime temperatures allowed for steady sugar and flavour accumulation across Merlot vineyards. Picking decisions were based around flavours and the resulting fruit was clean, ripe and full of flavour.

SOILS & VITICULTURE

The fruit for this wine was grown entirely on the gravelly soils of the Gimblett Gravels growing region in Hawkes Bay. Our different vineyards contribute small parcels of exceptional fruit, each with their own unique characteristics. The free draining soils of these sites help ensure balanced fruit and canopy growth which is essential for ripe flavours and tannin development. Yields are cropped low allowing vines to produce fruit that is richly concentrated in colour, flavour and structure.

WINEMAKING DATA

FERMENTATION: Open-top stainless steel fermenters
BARREL TYPE: 100% French oak, 34% new
MATURATION: 18 months
MALOLACTIC: Conducted in barrel
FILTRATION: Coarse Bell-house filtration to bottling
BOTTLED: 19th February 2016

