



VILLA MARIA
NEW ZEALAND



Reserve

GIMBLETT GRAVELS

Merlot 2018

Awards & Accolades

Gold -Hawkes Bay Wine Awards 2020

Winemaker's Comment

The 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 benefit and gain additional complexity from careful cellaring.

Season & Viticulture

The 2018 Hawkes Bay vintage followed one of the warmest summers on record, providing superb conditions for ripening. Although harvest commenced early in March with immediate pressure from rain, the majority of the later ripening reds were harvested under welcome blue skies. Fruit grown on stony free-draining sites maintained a healthy condition and following the earlier rain events had an opportunity to concentrate in flavour prior to harvest.

Vineyard & Winemaking

VINEYARD: 55% Omahu Gravels, 30% Ngakirikiri, 15% Te Awa

VINEYARD YIELD: 5.8T/Ha

CLONE: CL481

The fruit for this wine was grown entirely on the gravelly soils of the Gimblett Gravels growing region. Our vineyards here 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

VARIETIES: 100% Merlot

ALCOHOL: 13.5%

pH: 3.52

TOTAL ACIDITY: 5.87g/L

RESIDUAL SUGAR: 0.3g/L

FRUIT HANDLING: 100% Destemmed and crush. 3 weeks time on skins

FERMENTATION VESSEL: Open top, stainless steel fermenter

BARREL TYPE: 100% French oak, fine grain, M+, 50% new

MATURATION: 18 months

FINING: Egg whites

FILTRATION: Non sterile 'rock stopper' Bell-house filtration

BOTTLED: 16th December 2019