



**NGAKIRIKIRI**  
← 2014 →  
**GIMBLETT  
GRAVELS**

**HAWKES BAY  
WINE OF NEW ZEALAND**

**98 POINTS**

Bob Campbell, Winewriter

**100 POINTS**

Sam Kim, Winewriter

**20 out of 20**

Raymond Chan, Winewriter



# NGAKIRIKIRI

## GIMBLETT GRAVELS

'Ngakirikiri' in Māori, refers to the unique gravel soils that define the Hawkes Bay, Gimblett Gravels growing appellation, a befitting name for this stony Hawkes Bay vineyard sited on what was an ancient riverbed. The Gimblett Gravels sub-region is a majestic site with a reputation for beautiful and thought-provoking wines.

This Villa Maria flagship wine is only made when exceptionally rare conditions produce truly outstanding wines for consideration. Our Icon wines represents the pinnacle of our winemaking achievements and a milestone in Villa Maria's history.

## Tasting Note

Upon pouring, this deep purple coloured wine gradually yields notably intense and pure aromatics of cassis, black plum and anise, with ground coffee bean, graphite, fragrant thyme and cedar nuances also vying for attention. Layers of concentrated flavours emerge and flow beautifully across the palate from start to finish, with optimally ripe fruit, fine-grained tannins and supportive oak enhancing overall texture and richness at each point along the way. This full-bodied wine will benefit and gain additional complexity from careful cellaring over the next 15-20 years.

Nick Picone, Chief Winemaker

## The Season

2014 will be noted as one of the regions great vintages. A particularly warm growing season, summer extended into March with blue skies prevailing for the majority of the harvest.

Hawkes Bay with its coastal location and proximity to mountains, experiences a dry, maritime climate with an influential diurnal temperature range. The Gimblett Gravels sub-region is located approx. 15km inland and experiences temperatures typically warmer than its neighbouring localities, promoting ripeness to be achieved by low yielding vines planted

in free draining soils. 2014 season growing degree day units finished ahead of the long-term average with 1544, and average rainfall for the months January through March was 93mm, 50% of the long-term average.

## Technical

**Varieties:** 100% Cabernet Sauvignon  
**Planting density vines / ha:** 3129  
**Cropping rate:** 4.9T/Ha  
**Days cuvaion:** 13 days  
**Total months elevation in barrique:** 18 months  
**Bordeaux Export Barriques:** 39% new  
**Dry extract in g/L:** 35.7 gL  
**TA:** 6.2 gL  
**Filtration:** Non-sterile

**Location of vines:** Gimblett Gravels  
**Average vine age:** Planted 2000  
**Fruit handling:** 100% destemmed and crushed  
**Cap management:** Plunging  
**Type and % new barriques:** French 225L  
**Residual sugar in g/L:** 0.64 gL  
**pH:** 3.60  
**Alcohol:** 13.8%  
**Cases (of 6) produced:** 400