

Vintage 2014

14

2014 SAINT CLAIR JAMES SINCLAIR CABERNET MERLOT

CONCENTRATED WITH DARK CHOCOLATE AND
SPICED BLACK PLUMS.

Colour:

Dark garnet with purple hues.

Aroma:

Dark and brooding with spiced plums, subtle hints of coffee, vanilla and blackcurrant.

Palate:

An exciting blend of delicious ripe dark plums, wild blackberries and lifted aromatic notes. A round full palate contains layers of silky textured tannin, hints of savory oak and freshly ground coffee on the finish.

Ageing potential:

Drinking well from release date, this wine can be enjoyed young or with careful cellaring will mature into a more complex wine that can be enjoyed for the next five years.

Viticulture:

This outstanding fruit was from our single vineyard within the Gimblett Gravels wine growing district of the Hawke's Bay region. The vigor moderating, free draining gravel provides a superb base for growing the varieties of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. The fruit was carefully monitored during ripening and harvested in the cool evening at

maximum flavor maturity and physiological ripeness.

Winemaking:

This is a blend of 83.6 per cent Cabernet Sauvignon and 16.4 per cent Merlot.

Each variety was kept separate during fermentation through to blending time. The fruit for each variety was held cold for four days prior to ferment to help extract maximum flavour and to enhance colour stability. Inoculation took place to carry out the primary alcoholic fermentation during which the fermenting must was hand plunged up to four times daily.

When dry the young wine was pressed and then racked off gross lees to a mix of stainless steel tanks and older American oak. The wine underwent a clean malolactic fermentation while ageing in oak and tank for 11 months. Trials of various portions of each variety took place before careful blending to create this final wine.

Wine analysis:

Alcohol 13%, Acidity 5.6g/litre, pH 3.66

Food match:

Well matched with traditional home cooked roasted spring lamb.



Consultant Winemaker Matt Thomson Senior Winemaker Hamish Clark Red Winemaker Kyle Thompson

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