

Vintage 2016

16

2016 SAINT CLAIR JAMES SINCLAIR CABERNET-MERLOT

**CONCENTRATED, COMPLEX AND FULL BODIED
WITH A LONG LUSCIOUS FINISH.**

Colour:

Dark ink in colour with thin purple rim.

Aroma:

Rich dark fruits combined with coffee, new leather and floral notes.

Palate:

A concentrated and full bodied palate weight with rich flavours of black plums, blackberries, chocolate and a hint of fresh vanilla bean pod. The texture is silky smooth and the finish is luscious and lingering.

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 or beyond.

Viticulture:

Sourced from within the Gimblett Gravels winegrowing district in the Hawke's Bay region. The free draining gravel type soil is vigour moderating. This combined with the climate are the perfect mix for the growth of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot.

The fruit was carefully monitored during ripening and harvested in the

cool evening at maximum flavour maturity and physiological ripeness.

Winemaking:

This is a blend of 70.4 per cent Cabernet Sauvignon and 29.6 per cent Merlot.

Both the Cabernet Sauvignon and the Merlot were kept separate through fermenting up until blending. Fruit was held cold for four days to assist with the extraction of flavour and to enhance colour stability. During the primary alcoholic fermentation the fermenting must was hand-plunged up to four times a day.

When dry the young wine was pressed and then racked off gross lees to a mix of tanks, 30 per cent new French oak and the balance seasoned older French oak. The wine underwent a clean malolactic fermentation while ageing in oak and tank for 11 months. Various different blend options were trialed before the winemakers made their decision on the final wine.

Wine analysis:

Alcohol 13.5%, Acidity 5.2g/litre, pH 3.59

Food match:

Matched perfectly with wild duck or venison.



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

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