

LIME ROCK



WINES



LIME ROCK CABERNET FRANC 2016

LIME ROCK Central Hawke's Bay Cabernet Franc is grown on limestone hills, from small vineyard blocks, and is handpicked. Vines are on their own roots; this is rare in the world and shows the true Cabernet Franc character, not influenced by rootstock.

This limited release is only our third Cabernet Franc; the previous ones were made in 2010 and 2015.

Vineyard

The vines are grown on warm, north-facing, sun drenched limestone hills. We have three sites. The 'J' and 'T' block, on the Tikokino Road vineyard, has some clay over the limestone whereas at Secret Vineyard, locked in amongst great limestone slabs, the vines are on the shallow soils over bony limestone; these smaller vines usually bear less fruit and ripen earlier. All grapes are hand pruned and hand picked.

2016 Season

A very good, long ripening season for our Cabernet Franc. The crop was small, as were the bunches and berries. It is always a pleasure to be out picking this variety, some time after the rest of the varieties. We have the 'old picking crew' and we meet up again, with less pressure, to reap the harvest. In 2016 it was 10th May and a bright fine day.

Winemaking

Hand picked bunches were crushed into a small vat and inoculated with the chosen yeast. The skins were plunged and after pressing the wine was aged in 2 seasoned premium French barriques for 14 months. We did not want the oak to dominate the delicate aromas of the grapes, hence the older barrels. There was no fining or clarification and filtration was minimal therefore a fine sediment may form in the bottom of the bottle.

Harvest	10 May, 2016		
	Brix 24.1	pH 3.29	TA 8.1g/l

Bottled	1 August, 2017.		
	Alcohol 13.0%	pH 3.54	TA 5.9g/l

Wine Description

Garnet in colour, hints of Black Doris plums and raspberries rolled in freshly ground cacao beans along with sweet spices and cedar tones, this wine speaks of place and maker.

The scene during harvest ...

As we handpick, we hear the bulls roaring and stamping in the nearby paddocks and see the sheep grazing on the brown hills, in amongst the magnificent limestone outcrops, just nearby. Between the hills we get views from the Ruataniwha Plains to the southern end of the Ruahine Ranges, about 70 kilometres away.

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