

LIME ROCK



WINES



LIME ROCK CABERNET FRANC 2015

LIME ROCK Central Hawke's Bay Cabernet Franc is grown on limestone hills, from a single vineyard 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 very limited release is only our second Cabernet Franc; the previous one was made in 2010.

Vineyard

The vines are grown on warm, north-facing, sun drenched limestone hills. We have two sites. The 'J' block, on the Tikokino Road vineyard, has some clay over the limestone whereas in 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.

2015 Season

An excellent 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. (Most years it is blended as a small percentage of the Merlot.) We have the 'old picking crew' and we meet up again, with less pressure, to reap the harvest. This year it was in early May and a stunning day.

Winemaking

Hand picked bunches were crushed into a small vat and inoculated with chosen yeast. The skins were plunged and the wine was aged in 3 year old premium French barriques for 8 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.

Harvest	6 May, 2015		
	Brix 23.7	pH 3.55	TA 6.3g/l
Bottling	11 April, 2016		
	Alcohol 13.5%	pH 3.66	TA 5.4g/l

Wine Description

Black currant, cranberry, ripe red fruits, spices and subtle French oak are some of the components that shine in this elegant, integrated wine.

Food Match

Grilled beef steaks or choice lamb chops, Portobello mushrooms, green olives, pepper and rosemary. As we pick, we hear the bulls roaring and stamping in the nearby paddocks and see the sheep grazing on the brown hills just nearby!

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Cellar door open Saturday and Sunday, from November to end of February.
Ring to visit at other times