

Čuvar Guardians Collection

Cornerstone Vineyard, Cabernet Merlot Malbec 2023

VINTAGE

2023 was a bitter sweet vintage for the Hawkes Bay but luckily our Cornerstone vineyard weathered the cyclone with aplomb and produced some of the most intense fruit of the season.

VINEYARD

Hawkes Bay, Cornerstone

Cornerstone vineyard is planted in the famous Gimblett Gravels appellation. The canopy was kept open to ensure airflow around the bunches which kept them clean and open to sunlight. This meant that the fruit was picked at the exact time we needed to make the wine, rather than being dictated by the weather.

WINEMAKERS COMMENTS

Deep ruby red with a vibrant purple hue, the bouquet opens with rich aromas of blackcurrant and blackberry, complemented by notes of dark chocolate and hints of cedar from oak ageing. There is a touch of dried herbs and a whisper of tobacco adding complexity. The palate is full-bodied and structured with velvety tannins and flavours of ripe

black fruits interwoven with layers of spice reminiscent of cinnamon and fruit cake. The oak influence is evident but well-integrated, providing a luxurious mouthfeel and contributed to flavours of toasted oak and espresso. The finish is long and lingering, with a harmonious balance between fruit, oak and savoury elements that leave a lasting impression.

WINEMAKING

FRUIT HANDLING: 100% hand picked

Destemmed and fermented in small open fermenters. Plunged daily and when necessary the wines were racked and returned to aid gentle tannin extraction and cooling of the ferment. 50% of the wine was inoculated while the remainder of the fruit we allowed to start naturally – the later adding depth while the former adds fruit spectrum. 100% oak matured in 50% new French barrique with the odd Hogshead (300 Litre barrel) and seasoned oak for a total of 18 months. Malolactic fermentation occurred naturally during the spring months of 2023.

FERMENTATION VESSEL:

100% small vat(2 – 3 tonne parcels) hand plunged.

TECH NOTES

PH : 3.78	TA : 6.10g/l	ALC : 13.5%	Residual Sugar : Nil
Standard Drinks : 8.0		Variety : 65% Cab Sav; 20% Merlot; 15% Malbec	
Bottled: June 2024		Vegan Friendly	

