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Čuvar Iris Collection

Hawke's Bay Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon 2024

VINTAGE

The 2024 vintage will go down as one of the finest ever seen in Hawke's Bay. A cool, extended flowering period in spring 2023 resulted in lower than average yields, naturally concentrating the fruit, while maintaining beautifully balanced acidity.

The remainder of the growing season was near perfect, with warm days and cool nights allowing the grapes to ripen slowly and evenly. The result is a collection of wines defined by remarkable vibrancy and depth.

VINEYARD

Cornerstone

Located on the southern banks of the Ngaruroro River in the famed Gimblett Gravels sub-region.

Mature Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon vines are planted on young, deep alluvial gravels that are free draining and encourage low yields and concentrated flavour. A sub-region that has naturally low rainfall and high sunshine hours producing exceptional cool-climate wine.

TECH NOTES

PH : 3.68	TA : 5.85 gl	ALC : 13.5%	Residual Sugar : Dry
Standard Drinks : 8.0		Varieties : Merlot 64%, Cabernet Sauvignon 36%	
Bottled: September 2025		Vegan friendly	
Vine age: Approx. 22 years		Clone: Merlot - 481, Cab Sauv - Erindale and UCD4	

WINEMAKERS COMMENTS

A refined and perfumed nose of plums, blackcurrant, blackberry, dried herbs and dark chocolate. Flavours of dark cherry, tapenade, cinnamon, fruit cake and cedar flow over the palate.

It is full bodied with the Merlot providing a core of fruit while the Cabernet Sauvignon adds structure and weight. Silky, ripe tannins and fine acid produce a remarkably focused wine that will age seamlessly.

WINEMAKING

FRUIT HANDLING:

Picked early in the morning to retain freshness.

64% Merlot and 36% Cabernet Sauvignon.

100% destemmed.

Approx 2-3 weeks on skins with daily plunging.

FERMENTATION VESSEL:

Open top stainless steel fermenters.

Pressed to 35% new, 30% second use and 35% older

French oak barriques.

100% malolactic fermentation.

15 months in barrel prior to blending.

Black currant, dried herbs and dark chocolate

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