

## 2018 RESERVE HAWKES BAY SYRAH

SUSTAINABLE WINE NZ REGISTRATION NUMBER: NZWCDE385D4B

### Winemakers Notes

Our fourth Reserve Syrah is made from fruit from our Chalk Ridge block, just to the south of Havelock North. It is a steep, north facing amphitheatre that is strewn with fossilised limestone. A tiny amount of Viognier (1.48%) from the same block was whole cluster, co-fermented with the Syrah to add fragrance and complexity and to help fix the colour. Vintage 2018 very challenging, but, the vineyard crew were utterly committed to this block, and, as a result, we harvested some of the best fruit we have ever seen from this vineyard. The block was hand harvested on 23<sup>rd</sup> March and 3<sup>rd</sup> April and the wine spent around 12 months in French oak (55% new) before assemblage. Bottling was on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

### Analysis

**Alc** 13.5%    **Acid** 6.5g/L    **Res Sugar** <1g/L    **pH** 3.57

### Tasting Notes

**Colour:** A beautiful deep purple/red, with a dense, dark core and bright, flashing purple rim.

**Bouquet:** The essence of Hawkes Bay Syrah. Ripe, brooding fruit along with beautiful floral notes and subtle oak.

**Palate:** A beautifully structured wine. Full bodied with silken tannins, great length and penetration. The fruit in the mid palate lasts and lasts.

### Cellaring

Already approachable, but we expect this wine to cellar for a number of years.

### Independent Reviewer's Comments

*"A really lovely bouquet and palate with a core of dark berries and black currant flavours, plenty of smoky wood tone with clove and vanilla spice, and a whisper of fresh black pepper. Firm and dry with a plush mid-palate mouthfeel, firmish tannins, and acidity frame the ripe fruit flavours nicely. There's a lovely energy and presence about this wine that makes it very easy to enjoy with or without food. Best drinking from the day of purchase through 2029."* Cam Douglas, June 2024

*"Set for a long life, this powerful, highly refined red was grown in the Chalk Ridge vineyard, on the edge of the Havelock North hills. Hand-harvested and matured for a year in French oak casks, it is dark and invitingly fragrant, with dense, youthful, well-ripened plum, spice and black pepper flavours, a hint of liquorice, and a very rich, harmonious finish. Open 2023+."* M Cooper, Nov 2019

### Awards

**Gold Medal** - Hawkes Bay Wine Awards, Oct 2019

**Five Stars** - Michael Cooper's Buyer's Guide 2020

**Five Stars** - Winestate Magazine, Nov 2019

**Five Stars** - The Real Review, Oct 2019

**94 Points** – Cameron Douglas MS, June 2024