

## Lime Rock Merlot 2013

### The Story

Lime Rock is a stunning vineyard situated on limestone hills in sunny Central Hawke's Bay, New Zealand specialising in Pinot Noir, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Gris, Merlot and Grüner Veltliner. Elegance, balance and length are a feature of our wines. The limestone contributing to the sought-after mineral characters. The ecological philosophy (vit-ecology), combined with over 30 years of wine industry experience, provides a solid basis for producing wines that express the flavour of our land. .

### The Vineyard

Limestone, altitude and distance from the present ocean make our LIME ROCK vineyard site different from others. On these high north-facing Central Hawke's Bay limestone hills we have found a niche for our vines. Graduation in soil depth down the slope, different aspects of the hills along with nine different clones, many on own roots, are factors that add to the complexity of our wines.

Our Merlot comprise clones 181 and Erindale, both on own roots. We have two sites. Our 'Basin Reserve', mid way up our vineyard, has some clay over the limestone and has a 'bowl-like' topography. In G Block, on the hill near the road, our vines (Erindale clone) are on the bony shallow soils over limestone; these smaller vines usually bear less fruit and ripen earlier. Cabernet Franc (4%) was included this year. All grapes are hand pruned and hand picked.

### Vintage 2013

2013 was a stunning year with a long dry autumn we picked in two batches; the tops of the rows, and then 5 days later, the ends of the rows. The berries were luscious and the sugar, acids and flavour were balanced to perfection. Harvest was early to mid-season.

### Winemaking

The hand picked bunches were crushed into small vats and cold soaked for a couple of days before inoculation with a specially selected yeast. Plunging and pumping was carried out during fermentation; malo-lactic fermentation and aging was in premium French barriques for 20 months before blending and bottling.

### Tasting Note

This dark ruby coloured wine has plum, mulberry, boysenberry and chocolate characters along with savoury and smoky tones. Development of more complex spicy and fruitcake flavours are forming with time and ripe tannins are becoming integrated.



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<b>Alcohol Percentage</b>	<b>14 %</b>
<b>Residual Sugar</b>	<b>Dry</b>
<b>T.A.</b>	<b>5.6 g/L</b>
<b>Aging Potential</b>	<b>10+ years</b>



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