

De la Terre Grand Reserve Tannat 2014

The Story

De la terre is a small family-run business, owned and operated by Tony and Kaye Prichard, and Gracie, the Winery Dog. They produce small volumes of high-quality wines with the emphasis on elegance, texture and balance. They have a quirky mix of grape varieties which allows them to create a full range of wine styles from Methode Traditionnelle Blanc de Blancs, simple and complex white wines, a selection of lesser known (in New Zealand) red grape varieties, through to a Sauternes-style Noble Viognier. The name 'de la terre' literally meaning 'of the earth', is a reference to both the vineyard soils and the earth brick construction used for our the winery and cellar door.

The Vineyard

Not far from Hill Country Estate is a picturesque vineyard overlooking the Tukituki River. This is where we source the Tannat grapes from. This very small vineyard is in 2 blocks – the terraced House Block that produces the fruit for our Reserve Tannat wine and the flat Road Block which makes our Estate Tannat. We took over the management of this vineyard after vintage in 2013.

Vintage 2014

Following on from the stunning 2013 vintage, 2014 was yet another fantastic year for grapes in Hawkes Bay. After an excellent flowering, the growing season was warm and dry through the main harvesting period to provide clean, ripe fruit with real flavour intensity. We managed to work around some troublesome late-season rain to pick the later ripening varieties in great condition.

Winemaking

Hand-picked grapes from the small north-facing terrace on the Cranwell home vineyard. 50% new French Oak, un-fined and unfiltered, this is one of the three best reds made by the winemaker in over 30 years of winemaking. Bottled and labelled and individually hand-numbered.



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Tasting Note

The wine is black-crimson in colour with a vibrant hue and massive intensity. The nose has a totally unique varietal profile – ripe blackberry/blueberry with an underlying earthiness and a suggestion of old-fashioned printers ink and leather. Refined and elegant French oak supports and sweetens the fruit. At present, the wine is displaying a youthful vibrancy. Our experience is that with bottle age, the primary fruit gives way to further earthiness, tobacco and other complexities. The palate has a burst of black cherry fruit in the attack building to a huge flavour concentration in the mid-palate. Despite the very high concentration of tannins they are supple, fine and powdery – “an iron fist in a velvet glove”. A key feature of the palate is the balance between tannins and acidity – great attention was paid to sinking the acidity below the tannin backbone. The wine has huge length.

Alcohol Percentage	13%
Residual Sugar	Dry
T.A.	
Aging Potential	15 + years



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