

## Te Mata Estate Awatea Cabernet Merlot 2018

Awatea takes its name from the historic ship SS Awatea (a Maori word meaning “Eye of the Dawn”) that sailed the Auckland – Sydney – Wellington route in the late 1930s. The Awatea was requisitioned as a troop transport in WWII and was sunk off Algeria in 1942.

### The Story

Established in 1896, Te Mata Estate remains family owned, producing internationally recognised wines exclusively from its Hawke's Bay vineyards. Gifted this name by Ngāti Kahungunu, Te Mata Estate is a winery of place.

Their reputation as one of New Zealand's most outstanding wineries is based upon the quality of their flagship wines, Elston, Cape Crest, Zara, Bullnose, Awatea and Coleraine. With their complexity, structure and balance these wines reward careful cellaring through their continued evolution in bottle

### The Vineyard

All Te Mata Estate wines are produced exclusively from our own Hawke's Bay vineyards. A temperate maritime climate with low rainfall, due to the rain shadow from mountains to the west, ensures Te Mata's sites makes the most of every vintage.

At the heart of Te Mata Estate are the Havelock Hills Vineyards - the first legally-protected vineyards in New Zealand. First planted in 1892, Te Mata has five sites on these free draining, north-facing slopes. Soils to the east are mostly sandy loam over a sandstone base, and towards the west are sandy loam over a thin layer of clay and a silica pan. The distinctive shape of the hills is due to their comparative youth, in geological terms. At the meeting point of two tectonic plates, sandstone has been pushed up then worn away relatively quickly leaving a landscape of steep and gentle slopes, and terraces ideal for grape-growing.

### Winemaking

The separate parcels of grapes were destemmed before a traditional warm, plunged fermentation and extended maceration on skins. The resulting wines were then run to new and seasoned French oak barrels for 16 months' ageing. Throughout this time, they were regularly topped and racked. The separate wines were blended in January 2019, then returned to barrel for their second winter. The finished wine was then egg white fined and bottled in October 2019.



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### Tasting Note

Dark and bright, Awatea Cabernets/Merlot '18 is inky purple with an electric crimson edge. From a warm and dry vintage, Awatea Cabernets/Merlot '18 shows ripe blackberry and black currant aromatics with elements of vanilla creme and sandalwood. On the palate there's a banquet of plum, raspberry, dried herbs, and lingering dark cherry, set out across cedar and cocoa powder tannins. Classical in structure with fine balance and length, this is a generous Awatea of resplendent purity and detail.

<b>Alcohol Percentage</b>	<b>13.5 %</b>
<b>Residual Sugar</b>	<b>Dry</b>
<b>T.A.</b>	<b>5.9 g/L</b>
<b>Aging Potential</b>	<b>10 + years</b>
<b>Varieties</b>	<b>48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc.</b>



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