

Puriri Hills Estate Merlot Blend 2014

The Story

Puriri Hills makes luxurious blended red wines inspired by the grand crus of Pomerol and St-Emilion, on the right bank of Bordeaux, France.

Established in 1996, Puriri Hills is a privately owned vineyard founded by Judy Fowler. We make "estate bottled" wine exclusively from the Clevedon Vineyard and embrace a sustainable and authentic expression of terroir.

The Vineyard

Climbing from the Clevedon Valley floor carved out by the Wairoa River, up to the ancient river terraces, you find the vineyard. Puriri Hills takes its name from the native Puriri trees growing on the 93-acre property that encircle and protect the 5.5 acres of vines.

The outlook of the vineyard is to the north following the course of the river seaward towards Waiheke Island and the islands of the Hauraki Gulf. And eastward across a landscape dominated by low valley farmland to the Hunua ranges. To the west the Maraetai hills rise protectively behind the sloping vineyard contours.

Winemaking

In the winery, bunches were 100% destemmed and 80% crushed into oak cuves or stainless steel open-top fermenters. Ferments were cold soaked for 4-5 days to allow wild yeast development, then inoculated with oenological yeasts. Total time on skins ranged from 3-4 weeks depending on the varietal and the character desired. Free run wines were put to barrel and marc was lightly basket pressed. All wine was barrelage in French oak, about 75% new, for ca. 21 months before final blending. It was fined with egg white but was not sterile-filtered. It was bottled under cork on the estate and aged in bottle for three years before release.

Tasting Note

Dense and inky purple in color despite a relatively low alcohol level on bottling, the 2014 offers up a generous bouquet of cedar, spice and bramble. Dense and chewy on the palate, with a sturdy structure that promises further development with bottle age. Tannins are beginning to resolve, but remain firm, giving this Estate a soft edge that enables for a myriad of food pairing options. A fine right-bank Bordeaux equivalent for a terrific price.



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Alcohol Percentage	13 %
Residual Sugar	Dry
T.A.	6 g/L
Aging Potential	15+ years
Varieties	77% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Cabernet Franc, 3% Malbec



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