

Puriri Hills Pope Merlot Blend 2010

The story

Pope is Puriri Hills' exceptional vintage wine that was first produced in 2005. It is only produced in outstanding years and consistently ranks as New Zealand's Top Bordeaux Blend. Puriri Hills wines are released five to eight years after vintage to ensure that newly launched wines are ready to drink upon release.

Named after employee Ivan Pope who was tireless in his efforts helping establish the winery. Classic varieties of Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Carmenère, (a lost bordeaux variety) Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec are grown in a single vineyard at Clevedon overlooking the Hauraki Gulf in Southeast Auckland. They are blended to create an outstandingly complex and elegant wine.

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.

Vintage 2010

2010 gave virtually perfect growing conditions and produced a moderate crop with small healthy berries. Vine age is 10 to 13 years and the canopy and fruit are manicured by hand throughout the season. They are dry land farmers and embrace the practices of natural farming managing our vineyard with organic or biodynamic soil additions and manual canopy and understory work



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Winemaking

All wine was barrel-aged in French oak, about 75% new, for circa 21 months before final blending. The wine was not fined or sterile-filtered.

Tasting Note

Michael Cooper:

"Deeply colored, it is mouth filling and supple, with substantial body and deep, lush blackcurrant, herb, spice and nut flavors, framed by fine, silky tannins. Showing lovely richness and texture, it's a drink-now or cellaring proposition. Outstandingly lush and complex, with ripe, supple tannins and very deep plum, spice, herb and slight liquorice flavors, it shows great potential."

Bob Campbell:

"It's a dense, rich and still quite youthful red, with primary fruit flavors of dark berry, floral and spice tempered with an appealing savory richness from bottle age. A backbone of fine tannins promises to allow further development. Remarkable wine that could be mistaken for a Right Bank Bordeaux."

Alcohol Percentage	14 %
Residual Sugar	Dry
T.A.	5.6 g/L
Aging Potential	18+ years
Varieties	54% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc, 17% Carmenère, 4% Malbec



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