

## William Murdoch Pax Merlot Blend 2011

Pax is a Merlot based wine in the same range as The Guardsman (Cabernet Sauvignon) and Coldstream (Syrah). It was 1st made in 2011 from an outstanding portion of Merlot growing next to the winery.

### The Story

William Murdoch Wines is a family owned business with the family participating in all aspects of the vineyard and winery operations. The company aspires only to be a boutique supplier of fine wine producing limited quantities of elegant, organic, fine wines.

The vineyard is operated on organic principles and is in transition to Biogrow organic certification which we hope to attain for the 2010 vintage.

### The Vineyard

13.15 ha site in the heart of the Gimblett Gravels, the vineyard, planted in 1999, is devoted to the proven Hawke's Bay red varieties, 18% to Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot in two separated blocks, 37% Syrah, consisting the Chave and MS clones, 7% to Malbec and 5% Cabernet Franc. Surrounded by the vineyards of Mission, Matariki and CJ Pask, with the now Trinity Hill owned block of Mark Blake just down the lane, the Murdoch Wines site in Gimblett Road is as blue-chip as you could ever have. The belief at Murdoch Wines is in "hands-off viticulture", allowing the organic balance of the vines and site come into play.

### Vintage 2011

The growing season for the 2011 vintage in Hawkes Bay was far from straightforward, however our organic viticulture, which demands a very "hands on approach" and continuous vigilance in the vineyard, ensured we were able to pick our grapes ripe, with great skin integrity.

### Winemaking

Gentle, respectful handling is the hallmark of our winemaking. The grapes are hand picked and fermented in small open topped vats with daily, gently plunging through the fermentation phase. Our wines ferment slowly with indigenous yeast. Once ferment is finished, the new wine continues to macerate with its skins until a balance is achieved between the fruit weight and wine structure. The skins are then pressed using a traditional basket press. The outstanding quality in 2011 of the old Merlot vines growing around the winery, led to the inaugural Pax blend. 10% Cabernet Franc adds complexity to the Merlot aromatics, a velvety texture and fine structure. 2011 PAX was matured in small French oak barrels (35% new) for 15 months.



info@thewinecave.nz

(+64) 9 930-8115

 <https://www.winecave.nz/>

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### **Tasting Note**

Fragrant, brooding and classy on the nose. Each swirl encourages aromatics. A purity of red fruit aromas laced with vanilla and rose with an underlying juxtaposition of savoury dark spice. The palate is supple with good density throughout and layers of grenadine, plum, rose and spice. The tannins melt on the finish. This Merlot is very approachable and plush yet maintains an elegance and refreshing finish.

<b>Alcohol Percentage</b>	<b>13 %</b>
<b>Residual Sugar</b>	<b>Dry</b>
<b>T.A.</b>	
<b>Aging Potential</b>	<b>10+ years</b>
<b>Varieties</b>	<b>90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc</b>



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