

Te Mata Estate Alma Pinot Noir 2018

Alma celebrates Dr James Thomson, a hero of the 1854 Battle of the Alma during the Crimean War and forefather to Te Mata Estate's Buck family. Knowing the vanquished enemy soldiers had already contracted cholera, Dr Thomson volunteered to tend to their wounds, saving the lives of over four hundred, and sacrificing his own in the process. The medal he was awarded for this selfless act of valour appears on the label of Alma Pinot Noir.

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.

Nestled between sheltering hills on a series of elevated, free-draining terraces that step down to the Tutaekuri River Valley - Woodthorpe Terraces is one of Hawke's Bay's hidden gems. A special place uniquely positioned for fine wine-growing, this historic 220 hectare property has sandy loam over gravel soils left behind as the Tutaekuri River eroded its path through the hills to the sea. First planted in 1994, Woodthorpe produces viognier and gamay noir as single-vineyard wines, as well as holding our largest plantings of merlot, syrah, chardonnay and sauvignon blanc.

Winemaking

The individual lots were each destemmed and given a traditional warm-plunged fermentation. The resulting wines underwent extended maceration on skins before pressing. The separate wines were then run to a mixture of new and seasoned French oak barriques for 11 months' maturation.



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Tasting Note

Midnight-dark with a deep crimson edge, Alma '18 is a triumph of aromatic wild strawberry, black cherry, currants, marzipan, sage and sandalwood. The palate's ripe, sustained, structure reveals a parade of spice and brooding, soft, dark, berry fruits and rich savoury tannins - set to unfurl with time. Cherry, black plum, cinnamon and smoke, all glide across a palate which is wonderfully deep-set. Finely-dressed for its debut, the premiere release of Alma '18 is modern, majestic, and enchanting in its detail.

Alcohol Percentage	14 %
Residual Sugar	Dry
T.A.	5.3 g/L
Aging Potential	10 + years



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