

## Hans Herzog The Spirit of Marlborough Merlot Blend 2013

### The Story

The Herzog families have grown wine in Switzerland since 1630. Hans Herzog is a graduate of the Wine University of Wädenswil, Switzerland, with a degree in viticulture and a master degree in winemaking, plus the experience of over 40 years as winegrower/winemaker.

In 1994, Hans identified a unique piece of land bordering the banks of the Wairau River in Marlborough that would provide all the elements to continue with his tradition of leading the way with new grape varieties. Not influenced by commercial thoughts, he successfully planted Pinot Gris, Viognier and Montepulciano – varieties rarely witnessed in New Zealand at the time.

### The Vineyard

Hans identified a piece of land a long way from home in Marlborough, one of the sunniest and driest climates in New Zealand. The arid sandy and gravelly soils on the right bank of the Wairau River reminded him of the Médoc region in Bordeaux with its late ripening Cabernet, Merlot and Sauvignon Blanc. This river creates a special microclimate and the free draining soils make it one of the warmest and most valuable blocks in Marlborough. The exceptional sunshine hours, lengthy dry and mild autumns together with Hans' rigorous vineyard management and extremely low yields allow even late ripening varieties to achieve perfect physiological ripeness. The significant diurnal temperature range with cool nights, typically more than 10°C cooler than the sunny days, preserve the natural acidity in the grapes and give rise to the extraordinarily intense varietal character. The vibrant succulent ripe fruit flavours making it not only one of the world's best wine regions but providing all the elements to continue Hans' tradition of leading the way with new grape varieties.

### Vintage 2013

After a perfect, long dry autumn we handpicked a tiny yield of 600g/vine of healthy, physiologically ripe Cabernet Franc and Merlot grapes in harmony with our 'low yield/highest quality' philosophy. The vines grow on the sandy, gravelly soils of our vineyard, akin to those of the Pomerol\* region. Both climates are moderated by their proximity to the Ocean and the presence of rivers yielding wines of exclusive velvety quality best after 10 years of ageing.



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### Winemaking

The grapes enjoyed a long maceration time and progressed into a natural wild fermentation to extract the beautiful flavours. Malolactic fermentation followed in partly new French barriques where the wine matured for a total of 30 month. Unfined and unfiltered. Natural sediments may show.

### Tasting Note

This noble blend shows off with aromas of juicy dark plums, black fruits and berries. Subtle spices, herbs and dark chocolate add to the complexity. Concentration and opulence aplenty followed by a sensuous, lingering long finish. We like you to enjoy this stately flagship wine at its full potential alike a "Grand Cru" Pomerol with many years of bottle ageing. And so we did, under perfect condition in our barrel hall, but without the heavy price tag!


<b>Alcohol Percentage</b>	<b>14.5 %</b>
<b>Residual Sugar</b>	<b>Dry</b>
<b>T.A.</b>	<b>6.4 g/L</b>
<b>Aging Potential</b>	<b>7 + years</b>
<b>Varieties</b>	<b>40% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon</b>



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