

## William Murdoch Merlot Malbec 2011

### 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 varietals, 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. We hand pick and gently de-stem our grapes. 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. Our individual batches of wine spend winter and spring in barrel before we rack and blend in early summer. The new blends are then returned to barrel to mature until we feel they are perfectly balanced and ready to bottle. 2011 Merlot Malbec spent 12 months in barrel (30 % new) and was lightly fined with organic egg whites before bottling.



info@thewinecave.nz

(+64) 9 930-8115

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

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### Tasting Note

A bold and vivacious wine that delights with its floral nuances of red rose over slatey mineral notes, crushed manuka and black plums. This wine is a delight with its wealth of aromas that draws you back. The palate fulfils the expectations, with layers of flavour that develop as the wine glides over the palate with a silky like texture. The fine tannins define this powerful yet elegant, complex wine.

<b>Alcohol Percentage</b>	<b>13 %</b>
<b>Residual Sugar</b>	<b>Dry</b>
<b>T.A.</b>	<b>5.5 g/L</b>
<b>Aging Potential</b>	<b>10+ years</b>



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