



SACRED HILL

HELMSMAN

2015 HAWKE'S BAY



BRAND STORY

Naming wines can be a tricky business, and inspiration can strike at the most unlikely moments – in this case behind the wheel of a John Deere 6300. We first sourced fruit for this wine from Hawke's Bay winegrower Allan Gunn. We'd struggled to find a name we all felt passionate about, until one day Allan was driving his tractor through the vineyard, listening to the radio commentary of the legendary defence of the America's Cup by Team New Zealand. Black Magic crossed the finish line and the bolt of inspiration hit. He phoned winemaker Tony Bish, convinced he'd found the elusive name for a great New Zealand wine. Helmsman was born.

VINTAGE SUMMARY

Hawke's Bay enjoyed its third successive excellent growing and harvesting season in 2014/15 winegrowing year. We enjoyed warm, dry conditions throughout the critical periods, without excessive heat or any prolonged rainfall. Disease pressure was consequently low, and we were able to harvest all blocks completely clean and in perfect condition. Harvest was un-hurried, with consistently good weather allowing selective and sequential harvesting of each block when optimum maturity was reached.

WINEMAKER'S NOTE

Deeply coloured appearance. The aroma is beautifully perfumed and fragrant with cassis, ripe blackcurrant, white truffle and dark chocolate. The palate has ripe, black fruits, black olives with the sweetness of the Cabernet Franc showing through. Classically structured, this is a tightly bound, elegant yet powerful red wine with tremendous power on the finish.

VINIFICATION

The fine and stable weather during the latter part of the 2015 growing season allowed us to pick our Cabernet Sauvignon in the second ½ of April with ripe tannins and flavours. Cabernet Sauvignon makes up 76% of 2015 Helmsman along with 19% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc. Each variety was fermented separately with predominantly indigenous yeast. The grapes spent 30 to 40 days in the fermenting vats before running off the new wine and pressing the skins in our basket press. The new wines went to French oak barrels as individual grape varieties and were carefully blended in November 2015 to make Helmsman. The blend was then returned to French oak barrels, 50 % of which were new, for a further 12 months ageing. A total of 20 months in French oak barrels.

Helmsman was bottled in February 2017 and will continue to mature majestically in bottle.

Handcrafted with attentive, loving care.



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VARIETY	76% Cabernet Sauvignon 19% Merlot 5% Cabernet Franc	TA	5.79 g/L
REGION	Hawke's Bay	WINEMAKER	Tony Bish/Jenny Dobson
FOOD MATCHES	Roasted red meats	FRUIT SOURCE / SUB REGION	Deerstalkers Vineyard, Gimblett Gravels, Hawke's Bay
CELLARING	10 – 15 years	1ST YEAR OF PRODUCTION	1997
RS	Dry	BOTTLING DATE	18/2/2017
ALCOHOL	13.5%	CASES PRODUCED	263 dozen
PH	3.89		