

# 2019 SACRED HILL RESERVE HAWKE'S BAY MERLOT CABERNET

As adventurers and explorers we love seeking out the best vineyards to create our Reserve wines. We team pure, intense fruit from Hawke's Bay with attentive winemaking, to make seriously special wines.

#### VINTAGE SUMMARY

The 2019 season was ultimately one that winemakers loved. Fruit was in perfect condition across all Hawke's Bay varieties, loaded with intensity. A combination of the long summer and lower fruit yields meant that the harvest occurred around two weeks earlier than the long-term average.

Merlot and Cabernet fruit was picked after an extended hanging period offering rich, dark flavours.

#### WINEMAKER'S NOTE

The wine exhibits a rich garnet colour. Complex on the nose, aromas of black cherry and Christmas cake are backed by leather, tobacco, baking spices and cocoa. The palate is rich, flowing superbly through to supporting grainy tannins.

# VINIFICATION

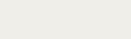
Gently destemmed without crushing to fermenter for traditional ferment with regular gentle pump overs to extract supple tannins. Soaked on skins post ferment to further soften tannins and then aged in premium French oak barrels for 8 months, 15% of which were new and the remainder 1 and 2 years old oak.

# TECHNICAL DETAILS

Variety:	94% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Cabernet Franc, 1% Malbec	
Food Matches:	Smoked brisket and lamb chops	Ha Ne
Cellaring:	5 years	
RS:	Dry	
Alcohol:	13.5%	
pH:	3.65	
TA:	6.58 g/L	

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