

# PRESTIGE COLLECTION

## Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot

### 2015



#### Winemaker intentions

This is a classic Hawkes Bay blend and so we're looking to build on the regions natural suitability with this variety and really push our vineyards ability to ripen with powerful aromatics. We'd usually see these aromatics develop hand in hand with deep and vibrant crimson hues. Ageing this wine in French oak Barriques helps to enhance and cedar and earthy characters along with a richly textured, balanced palate. Suppleness on the palate is a hallmark of good Hawkes Bay blended red and we look to develop fine-grained tannins with extended time on skins before pressing. This ensures the wine is approachable and capable of developing further complexity with medium to long term aging.

<b>WINE</b>	<b>Prestige Collection</b>
<b>VINTAGE</b>	2015
<b>VARIETAL MIX</b>	72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot
<b>HARVEST DATE</b>	Various
<b>ALC</b>	13.5%
<b>pH</b>	3.7
<b>TA</b>	5.8g/L
<b>RS</b>	<1.0g/L
<b>CRUSHING/PRESSING</b>	Destemmed and lightly crushed to open top Fermenters Cold Soaked for 3 days prior to inoculation
<b>FERMENTATION</b>	Inoculated for fermentation using traditional Bordeaux yeast. Natural spring Malo.
<b>OAK/BARREL HANDLING</b>	Racked to 75% new French oak barrels for aging. Aged 24 months.
<b>FINING</b>	Minimal Egg White Fining
<b>FILTRATION</b>	Sterile Pad Filtered
<b>CELLARING</b>	10-15 Years

#### Winemaker's description

Deep, dark ruby-red in colour. The nose of this wine displays lovely, rich aromas of black currant, cassis, tobacco, with hints of oak, leather and earthy characters that are very enticing and linger long after you take your nose out of the glass. The palate is powerful yet elegant; full and rich with very pleasing structure and length that keeps you wanting more. The wine offers hints of herbs and heaps of blackberry, currant, black plum that are carried on throughout the long finish. This is a wine with nice concentration, power, complexity and intrigue that will drink beautifully now, but will pay you back if you can wait. Ten to Fifteen years cellaring potential.

