



## 2017 Elephant Hill Reserve Merlot Cabernet Franc

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Established in 2003, Elephant Hill is located within a stone's throw of the Pacific Ocean on the idyllic Te Awanga coast of Hawke's Bay on New Zealand's North Island.

The winemaking at Elephant Hill is driven by tradition while not losing sight of what innovation can bring to the blend. Our aim is to make wines that are balanced, elegant and a true expression of the vineyards they come from.

### Vintage Overview

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The 2016/17 growing season was marked by a sharp change of fortunes towards the end of summer by a sudden increase in rainfall throughout February to April and crop losses. Our hand-picking regime has to be incredibly thorough, ensuring only the best grapes are picked. With a 'no-holds' barred approach we believe we can still produce superior quality wines which typify the season.

### Winemaking

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This Hawke's Bay Reserve blend is composed of 52% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc, 17% Cabernet Sauvignon and 6% Malbec from our Gimblett and Triangle vineyards. The élevage of this wine was 26 months in French oak (35% new) and additional 5 months on lees in stainless steel tank. This wine was not fined prior to bottling on 13th November 2019.

## Tasting Note

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Still a youthful wine with aromas of warm spices and dark juicy fruits. This wine exudes elegance on the palate with an abundance of blackberries, black plums and black cherries flavours wrapped up in notes of chocolate, capsicum, pink peppercorn and violet petals.

### Review

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"Classically composed and gorgeously styled, the wine shows cassis, dark cherry, spicy oak, olive and subtle cocoa characters on the nose. It's concentrated and wonderfully flavoursome on the palate, while remaining firmly structured by chalky tannins, leading to an impressively long sturdy finish." - Wine Orbit. 95 points, 5 stars

## Technical Data

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### Wine

Alcohol Content: 13.5%

Residual Sugar: <1 g/L



**Elephant Hill**  
HAWKE'S BAY NEW ZEALAND

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