



## 2023 Annual Vintage Release

**Welcome to the 2023 release of our Icon and Elemental wines.**

This year we are thrilled to launch our most significant, highest quality set of wines in our winery's 15-year history.

Significant, not least, as we are offering Syrah and Red Blends from the outstanding, near perfect 2020 vintage, and Chardonnay from the fantastic 2021 vintage. We are also introducing three new wines in our single origin Elemental range.

This release is the most complete collection of fine wines ever from Elephant Hill.

# Two outstanding vintages

## 2021

2021 completes the trifecta of outstanding Hawkes Bay vintages. It's a rarity anywhere in the wine world to have three outstanding years in a row.

Hawkes Bay experienced a very mild and dry winter. Significant rainfall in November recharged the soils and this combined with warm conditions set healthy vine canopies. From the end of November through to the middle of February conditions were dry with several heat spikes leading to vine stress – a positive for grape quality.

Our Chardonnays are showing beautiful acidity, concentration, and complexity. They will age well and will continue to support our belief that Hawkes Bay makes some of the greatest Chardonnays of the world. They offer incredible value and continue to surprise international critics when assessed on quality.

## 2020

In over 100 vintages in Hawke's Bay we have never experienced one like 2020! We couldn't have wished for a better summer and autumn with warm and dry conditions throughout. Despite the challenges of Covid lockdown, and thanks to a remarkable season of weather we couldn't be happier with the wines.

Some early spring moisture gave way to a sustained warm and dry period with the last three months of the season delivering less than 50mm of rainfall compared to the long-term average of 190mm. While the growing season in our region was warm it wasn't hot, allowing us to pick grapes with good natural acidity to balance their flavour ripeness.

Syrah and Red Blends are looking exceptional, and they reflect the near perfect growing season. The wines have a freshness about them that is true our style - wines showing elegance, complexity, depth and texture. We look forward to seeing how the wines evolve over what we expect will be a long life.

**The Elemental range** is our expression of sub-regional, single origin wines which show distinct and unique provenance. Wines that are designated SEA, EARTH or STONE are made entirely, or almost entirely, from grapes grown in our single vineyard sites at Te Awanga, Bridge Pa and Gimblett Gravels.

## SEA



Size: 25ha

Sub-region: Te Awanga

Soils: Coastal shingle & clay

Plantings: Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc,  
Pinot Gris, Viognier, Syrah

Our SEA vineyard is located right on the Pacific coast at Te Awanga. Influenced by its coastal positioning, cool ocean breezes and shingle soils. The wines show great fresh liveliness, a salivating saline acidity and lifted fragrant aromatics.

## EARTH



Size: 17ha

Sub-region: Bridge Pa Triangle

Soils: Inland alluvial & red metal

Plantings: Chardonnay, Syrah, Merlot,  
Malbec, Tempranillo

Our EARTH vineyard is found furthest inland on some of the oldest and deepest soils in Hawke's Bay. It is a warmer site on richer, layered sub-soils that produces broad and rounded, well flavoured, fruit dense, fleshy wines.

## STONE



Size: 18ha

Sub-region: Gimblett Gravels

Soils: Inland deep gravel & silt

Plantings: Syrah, Merlot, Malbec,  
Cab Sauv, Cab Franc, Chardonnay

Our STONE vineyard is composed of gravel and silt layers originally formed after a great flood of the Ngaruroro river in 1867. The river stones absorb and radiate heat on the vines to create concentrated, structured, bold, ageworthy wines.



Elephant Hill produces handcrafted, small-batch wines from grapes grown in three sustainably farmed Hawke's Bay vineyards located in the Te Awanga, Bridge Pa and Gimblett Gravels sub regions, that each contributes a distinctive elemental character of SEA, EARTH & STONE.

### 2021 Elephant Hill SEA Chardonnay

The Elemental range is our expression of sub regional, single origin wines which show distinct and unique provenance. Wines that are designated SEA, EARTH or STONE are made entirely, or almost entirely, from grapes from our single vineyard sites.

The SEA vineyard is located right on the Pacific coast at Te Awanga with its cool, ocean breezes and shingle soils that help create fresh, aromatic, saline, salivating wines.

### Tasting Note

Packed with saline minerality, ripe citrus and a hint of oyster shell. Taut acidity and soft spice lingers on a long, racy finish.

### Reviews & scores

95 points	Candice Chow
95 points	Bob Campbell MW
18.5 points	Joelle Thomson
96 points	Sam Kim
95 points	Cameron Douglas MS
5 stars	Michael Cooper

'Gorgeously elegant and enticing' - Sam Kim

'Fine-boned, vibrant wine with an ethereal texture' - Bob Campbell MW

### Vintage Overview

2021 completes a trifecta of outstanding Hawke's Bay vintages. Warmer than average overall in early summer and dry through to late summer and a cool dry autumn, helped retain elegance, natural acidity and balance. Fresh, concentrated and complex whites, and pure, ripe and elegant reds. All ageworthy and long lived wines.

### Winemaking

100% handpicked Chardonnay, whole bunch pressed to barrel and naturally fermented, then partial malolactic. Aged 12 months in French oak barrels, 57% new, and a further 5 months on light lees. 155 cases produced.

### Technical Data

<b>Vineyard</b>	<b>Wine</b>
100% SEA (Te Awanga)	Alcohol: 14.5%
<b>Clones</b>	Residual Sugar: 2 g/L
Chardonnay - 15	

RRP \$65 per bottle



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## 2021 SEA Chardonnay - critics scores & notes

Bright, even, pale yellow. The nose is enticing and complex, aromas of light struck-match overlying citrus, zest and delicate spice. Medium-full bodied, aromas of grapefruit, lemon curd intertwined with zest, sherbet, delicate spice, unfolding roasted hazelnut and struck-match. The struck-match portion is well-managed and uplifting; zingy acid tension enlivens and drives a long, salivating finish. This Chardonnay possesses excellent energy, tension, and well-balanced components on a fine-textured, focused palate. Match with crab linguine and oyster tempura over the next 8+ years. **95 points - Candice Chow**

The initial aroma delivers a salty, sea air tang together with oyster shell, lemon blossom and nicely integrated spicy oak. Fine-boned, vibrant wine with an ethereal texture and appealing lengthy finish. **95 points - Bob Campbell MW**

Bold flavours of ripe citrus give way to smooth creamy nuances and a full body with bright acidity giving this wine great length of flavour. Its flavours are textbook cool climate thanks to the coastal breeze from the Sea Vineyard on the coast of Te Awanga, south of Napier. All grapes were handpicked, whole bunch pressed to barrel where they went through a natural ferment with no added commercial yeasts. Balance here is beautiful due to the influence of malolactic fermentation during 12 months maturation in oak barrels, 57% new. **18.5 points – Joelle Thomson**

Gorgeously elegant and enticing, showing white flesh stone fruit, oatmeal, roasted cashew, and lemon peel aromas, it's exquisitely focused and graceful with refined texture and bright acidity, finishing persistent and linear. From their Te Awanga vineyard. At its best: 2024 to 2033. **96 points – Sam Kim**

An immediately enticing bouquet of white and yellow orchard fruits, stones and sea air, apple, and baking spice of barrel. There's a light smoky quality to the bouquet too from wood and some finer lees complexities. Complex and youthful. On the palate a silky texture touches first with contrasting power and energy from acidity and finer wood tannins. The lees suggestion develops in combination with oak, salinity, roasted nut, and core fruit flavours reflective of the bouquet. A fantastic wine, modern and expressive of place with a focus on mouthfeel, variety, freshness, and complexity. Best drinking from late 2024 through 2029. **95 points – Cameron Douglas MS**

Estate-grown and hand-harvested at Te Awanga, the savoury, youthful 2021 vintage (5\*) was fermented and matured for a year in French oak casks (57 per cent new). Bright, light lemon/green, it has an invitingly fragrant bouquet. Mouthfilling and rich, it is an energetic wine, with concentrated, peachy, citrusy flavours, seasoned with biscuity oak, good acid spine and a long finish. Best drinking 2025+ **5 stars – Michael Cooper**



Elephant Hill produces handcrafted, small-batch wines from grapes grown in three sustainably farmed Hawke's Bay vineyards located in the Te Awanga, Bridge Pa and Gimblett Gravels sub regions, that each contributes a distinctive elemental character of SEA, EARTH & STONE.

### 2021 Elephant Hill EARTH Chardonnay

The Elemental range is our expression of sub regional, single origin wines which show distinct and unique provenance. Wines that are designated SEA, EARTH or STONE are made entirely, or almost entirely, from grapes from our single vineyard sites.

The EARTH vineyard is our furthest inland site on some older and deeper soils. The richer, layered sub-soils produces broad and rounded, well flavoured, fruit dense and fleshy wines.

### Tasting Note

A gently rich, rounded Chardonnay, predominantly grown on our warmer inland site, showing ripe peach flavours with a creamy texture and balancing citrus freshness.

### Reviews & scores

97 points	Candice Chow
96 points	Bob Campbell MW
18.5 points	Joelle Thomson
96 points	Sam Kim
95 points	Cameron Douglas MS
5 stars	Michael Cooper

### Vintage Overview

2021 completes a trifecta of outstanding Hawke's Bay vintages. Warmer than average overall in early summer and dry through to late summer and a cool dry autumn, helped retain elegance, natural acidity and balance. Fresh, concentrated and complex whites, and pure, ripe and elegant reds. All ageworthy and long lived wines.

### Winemaking

100% handpicked Chardonnay, whole bunch pressed to barrel and naturally fermented, then partial malolactic. Aged 12 months in French oak barrels, 23% new, and a further 5 months on light lees. 330 cases produced.

### Technical Data

Vineyard	Wine
96% EARTH (Bridge Pa)	Alcohol: 13.5%
4% SEA (Te Awanga)	Residual Sugar: <1 g/L
<b>Clones</b>	
Chardonnay - 1066 (38%), 548 (31%), Mendoza (16%) & 15 (15%)	

'This Chardonnay is sensational and opulent' - Candice Chow

'Deliciously drinkable now but promises to develop well' - Bob Campbell MW

RRP \$65 per bottle



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## 2021 EARTH Chardonnay - critics scores & notes

Bright, pale yellow, even colour throughout. This has a rich presence on the bouquet, with aromas of struck match intermixed with vanilla, sweet spice, nutty elements, stone fruit, and citrus. Full-bodied, aromas of apricot, lemon curd and grapefruit zest enriched by roasted hazelnut, vanilla, and cardamom. Fine-textured phenolics contribute a layer to the broad palate, unveiling toasty, nutty details. A tangy acid tension elevates and lengthens to a long, satisfying finish. This Chardonnay is sensational and opulent, with well-proportioned tension, toasty elements, and texture. Match with roasted fowl and pumpkin gnocchi with brown butter over the next 10 years. **97 points - Candice Chow**

Single vineyard wine from the Bridge Pa Triangle subregion of Hawke's Bay. Intense chardonnay with grapefruit, lemon curd, oyster shell, ginger, cashew nut and spicy oak flavours. Tangy, high-energy wine that is deliciously drinkable now but promises to develop well at least in the medium term.

**96 points - Bob Campbell MW**

Winemaker Hugh Crichton's passion for and experience with making great Chardonnays shines through in this full bodied, superbly savoury expression of the world's favourite white wine. The grapes in this wine are mostly from Elephant Hill's Earth vineyard at Bridge Pa with 4% from the Sea Vineyard. Whole bunches were pressed to barrel with a natural primary ferment which lifts the savoury flavour notes and is followed by a smooth, long, and textural finish.

**18.5 points – Joelle Thomson**

It's wonderfully ripe and inviting on the nose with grilled peach, fig, orange peel and vanillin oak aromas, leading to a superbly weighted palate offering fleshy texture backed by beautifully pitched acidity. The wine displays wonderful presence and structure, making it delectable and hugely appealing. At its best: 2024 to 2033. **96 points – Sam Kim**

A bouquet that becomes more complex as the wine opens up in glass. Aromas of orchard fruits - apple and pear, white fleshed stone fruits with some yellow fleshed fruit highlights. There's a softness and complexity from the oak with a mix of baking spices, nut, and new wood tones. A whisper of reduction layers in some gunflint and mineral earth qualities. Excellent weight and texture on the palate with a backbone of acidity contrasted by flavours of stone fruits and now some citrus qualities. The oak layers in mouthfeel and complexity with a fine layer of tannin and breadth across the palate. Delicious, youthful, and lengthy, a wine to savour. Best drinking from late 2024 through 2029. **95 points – Cameron Douglas MS**

The tightly structured, estate-grown 2021 vintage was predominantly (96 per cent) sourced from the Bridge Pa Triangle, with a splash (4 per cent) grown at Te Awanga. Hand-harvested and matured for a year in French oak barrels (25 per cent new), it is a light lemon/green, weighty, complex wine, with intense, citrusy, mealy, slightly biscuity flavours, threaded with fresh acidity. Still very youthful, it should be long-lived and is well worth cellaring to 2026+ **5 stars – Michael Cooper**



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### 2020 Elephant Hill SEA Syrah

The Elemental range is our expression of sub regional, single origin wines which show distinct and unique provenance. Wines that are designated SEA, EARTH or STONE are made entirely, or almost entirely, from grapes from our single vineyard sites.

The SEA vineyard is located right on the Pacific coast at Te Awanga with its cool, ocean breezes and shingle soils creating fresh, aromatic, saline, salivating wines.

### Tasting Note

Beautifully perfumed with lifted aromatics, followed by a silky smooth palate of intense, crunchy-fresh, red and black berry fruits.

### Reviews & scores

96 points	Candice Chow
93 points	Bob Campbell MW
17.5 points	Joelle Thomson
96 points	Sam Kim
94 points	Cameron Douglas MS
5 stars	Michael Cooper

### Vintage Overview

2020 was a near perfect vintage for Hawke's Bay, with a warm and dry growing season allowing picking to start early for the whites with superb ripeness and impeccable, healthy and clean fruit overall. Exceptional quality reds, with great elegance, rich complexity and concentration. Very age worthy wines with long cellaring potential.

### Winemaking

100% handpicked Syrah, small batch fermented. Springtime malolactic fermentation. Aged 18 months in French oak barrels, 20% new, and a further 10 months on light lees. 72 cases produced..

### Technical Data

<b>Vineyard</b>	<b>Wine</b>
98% SEA (Te Awanga)	Alcohol: 13.0%
1% EARTH (Bridge Pa)	Residual Sugar: <1 g/L
1% STONE (Gimblett Gravels)	
<b>Clones</b>	
Syrah - MS	

'Silky...with spicy baked plum flavours and complex layers of flavour' - Joelle Thomson

'Very elegant, concentrated, age worthy' - Michael Cooper

RRP \$65 per bottle



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## 2020 SEA Syrah - critics scores & notes

Full, deep purple, lighter on the rim. The nose is lifted and elegant, with aromas of sweet floral, blackberry, black cherry, minerals, herbs and subtle spice. Full-bodied, aromas of blackberry and black cherry intertwined with violet, lavender and herbs, unveiling stony minerals, saline and liquorice. The mouthfeel has a velvety tannin framework; rich floral and savoury elements entice and linger to a rich, spiced, long finish. This complex Syrah shows intense floral, herb and savoury layers, concentrated fruit and an opulent, velvety mouthfeel. Match with wild boar and venison over the next 12+ years. **96 points - Candice Chow**

Moderately concentrated syrah with black Doris plum, chocolate/mocha, liquorice, dried herbs, black pepper and spicy oak flavours. Rich and quite mellow wine with promising bottle development potential. **93 points - Bob Campbell MW**

The 2020 Sea Syrah is a silky wine with spicy baked plum flavours and complex layers of flavour with cinnamon, nutmeg and even a hint of cardamom all adding exotic depths of flavour. It is made mostly from grapes grown at the Sea Vineyard in Te Awanga, Hawke's Bay, with 1% of grapes each from Bridge Pa and Gimblett Gravels, which both add weight and depth. This is a lighter take on a warm, spicy style of Syrah, supported by 18 months ageing in oak barrels, 20% new, which flatter the wine, allowing its delicate fruit flavours to lead the palate. **17.5 points – Joelle Thomson**

Offering fabulous fruit purity with elegant complexity, the wine shows dark fruit richness, smoked game, warm spice and toasted nut aromas on the nose. The palate is bold and brooding with generously textured mouthfeel backed by loads of fine tannins, finishing wonderfully structured and refined at the same time. At its best: 2025 to 2037. **96 points – Sam Kim**

Aromas of fresh black, blue fruits with fleshy roasted plums and black currants, a mix of baking spices and meats, dark mushroom and barrel smoke, clove and fresh coffee, raspberry and stone. Youthful, taut and dry as the wine touches the palate, flavours of dark berries both fresh and roasted are of equal intensity. Firm tannins and acidity set a solid structure in place for fruit to marry to and cellar time if desired, assured. A youthful wine that is best decanted if served before 2025 with best drinking from late 2025 through 2033+ **94 points – Cameron Douglas MS**

The very elegant, concentrated, age worthy 2020 vintage (5\*) is Elephant Hill's "inaugural coastal Syrah". Estate-grown and hand-harvested at Te Awanga, it was matured for 18 months in French oak barrels (20 per cent new). Full-coloured, it is mouthfilling, complex, savoury and supple, with highly impressive depth of vibrant, plummy, spicy flavours, vague hints of tamarillos and herbs, well-integrated oak and a structured, finely poised finish. Still youthful, it should be at its best 2026+.

**5 stars – Michael Cooper**



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### 2020 Elephant Hill EARTH Syrah

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The EARTH vineyard is our furthest inland site on some older and deeper soils. The richer, layered sub-soils produces broad and rounded, well flavoured, fruit dense and fleshy wines.

### Tasting Note

This Syrah shows plush, velvet textures, generous deep, fleshy berry fruit with seductive layers of chocolate, coffee and spice.

### Reviews & scores

96 points	Candice Chow
96 points	Bob Campbell MW
18.5 points	Joelle Thomson
96 points	Sam Kim
95 points	Cameron Douglas MS
5 stars	Michael Cooper

### Vintage Overview

2020 was a near perfect vintage for Hawke's Bay, with a warm and dry growing season allowing picking to start early for the whites with superb ripeness and impeccable, healthy and clean fruit overall. Exceptional quality reds, with great elegance, rich complexity and concentration. Very age worthy wines with long cellaring potential.

### Winemaking

99% Syrah and 1% Viognier handpicked, co-fermented in small batches, 20% whole bunch. Natural springtime malolactic fermentation, aged 24 months in French oak barrels, 50% new, then a further 4 months on light lees. 156 cases produced.

### Technical Data

Vineyard	Wine
99% EARTH (Bridge Pa)	Alcohol: 14.0%
1% SEA (Te Awanga)	Residual Sugar: <1 g/L
<b>Clones</b>	
Syrah - MS & 470	

'Richly fruited and sumptuous...irresistible and gorgeously drinkable' - Sam Kim

'What a delicious wine!' - Cameron Douglas MS

RRP \$65 per bottle



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## 2020 EARTH Syrah - critics scores & notes

Full, deep purple, lighter on the rim. The nose is robust with aromas of dark herb, black cherry, blackberry, earth, spice and savoury elements. Full-bodied, blackberry and black cherry aromas entwined with rich herb, liquorice, earth minerals, clove, star anise and cured meat. The mouthfeel is full and broad, liquorice melded with stony minerals, along with fine-grained tannins clinging to the palate. Rich and herbaceous elements drive an extended closing. This Syrah is alluring with a herbaceous feature, broody, rich mineral palate and a meaty finish. Match with herb-crusted lamb and steak & stout stew over the next 12+ years.

**96 points - Candice Chow**

Dense, concentrated, fine-grained syrah with appealing fruit sweetness and flavours that suggest dark berry, cassis, blackcurrant, dark chocolate, tobacco leaf, sweet herbs and spicy oak. **96 points - Bob Campbell MW**

Juicy, dark, baked spiced black plum aromas are layered over a beautifully structured framework of ripe fruit and complex spice, flattered by aromas of youthful oak. Layers fresh sandalwood, cedar and fresh cinnamon, nutmeg and cardamon are all held together in a tight framework which suggests this wine has a long life ahead. It spent 24 months ageing in barrel, 50% new; a hefty portion that adds great structure to this commanding red. It can be enjoyed now but will reward at least three to five years' of ageing. **18.5 points - Joelle Thomson**

It's richly fruited and sumptuous, showing dark berry, cake spice toasty oak and rich floral aromas on the nose, followed by a concentrated palate displaying wonderfully textured mouthfeel with velvety tannins. Mouthfilling with layers of delicious flavours, making it irresistible and gorgeously drinkable. At its best: 2025 to 2037. **96 points – Sam Kim**

Fabulous colour and intensity with dark purples and ruby reds leading to a bouquet of dark berries and smoky soils, clove and vanilla, fleshy black currant baked boysenberry and spiced plums, freshly roasted coffee beans and milk chocolate. Taut, dry, a core of berry fruits, wood smoke and spices touch the palate all at once. A wine of complexity and youth, power and charm. Firm textures from an abundance of tannins, there's polish and mouthfeel, and a backbone of acidity showcase foundation, power and length. What a delicious wine. Best drinking from late 2025 through 2034. **95 points – Cameron Douglas MS**

Very generous, rich and harmonious, the debut 2020 vintage (5\*) was estate-grown in the Bridge Pa Triangle and matured for two years in French oak barrels (50 per cent new). Almost lush, it is mouthfilling, concentrated and smooth, with well-ripened plum, spice and blackcurrant flavours, a hint of liquorice, and a finely textured, well-rounded finish. Already delicious, it should break into full stride 2027+. **5 stars – Michael Cooper**



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### 2020 Elephant Hill STONE Syrah

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The STONE vineyard is found in the heart of the Gimblett Gravels, a former flood plain comprised of deep river gravel and silt layers. The stony top soils absorb and radiate heat to create intensely concentrated, well structured, bold and long-lived wines.

### Tasting Note

Deeply concentrated, intense Syrah with immense structure and presence. Dark, brooding, lightly spiced, berry fruits and a firm fulsome palate.

### Reviews & scores

97 points	Candice Chow
95 points	Bob Campbell MW
18.5 points	Joelle Thomson
97 points	Sam Kim
94 points	Cameron Douglas MS
5 stars	Michael Cooper

‘Outstanding fruit purity, it’s splendidly composed’ - Sam Kim

‘Extremely impressive Syrah’ - Joelle Thomson

### Vintage Overview

2020 was a near perfect vintage for Hawke’s Bay, with a warm and dry growing season allowing picking to start early for the whites with superb ripeness and impeccable, healthy and clean fruit overall. Exceptional quality reds, with great elegance, rich complexity and concentration. Very age worthy wines with long cellaring potential.

### Winemaking

100% handpicked Syrah, small batch fermented, 10% whole bunch. Natural springtime malolactic fermentation, aged 24 months in French oak barrels, 42% new, then a further 4 months on light lees. 290 cases produced.

### Technical Data

Vineyard	Wine
100% STONE (Gimblett Gravels)	Alcohol: 13.0%
	Residual Sugar: <1 g/L
Clones	
Syrah - MS (91%) & 470 (9%)	

RRP \$65 per bottle



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## 2020 STONE Syrah - critics scores & notes

Full, deep purple, lighter on the rim. The nose is elegantly presented with alluring floral, minty herbs, meaty nuance, dark minerals overlying blackberry, blackcurrant and spice. Full-bodied, broody blackberry and blackcurrant aromas melded with black tea, peppercorn, violet and rich minty herbs. Stony minerals reflect on fine-grained tannins, contributing a youthful yet velvety grip. The fruit is concentrated and rich; integrated acidity provides vitality and a long, herbaceous finish. This exceptional Syrah is concentrated, packed with black fruit and complex layers on a rich mouthfeel and lasting closing. Match with roasted lamb and venison backstrap over the next 12+ years. **97 points - Candice Chow**

Rich, concentrated and almost chewy red with ripe plum, cacao, mocha, cassis, leather and spicy French oak flavours. Accessible wine with a nice balance between fruit sweetness and pleasantly drying tannins. Should age well. **95 points - Bob Campbell MW**

Extremely impressive Syrah from its deep and vibrant red-purple colour through to its warming plums baked in spice like aromas. This wine is made 100% from Elephant Hill's Stone Vineyard on the Gimblett Gravels in Hawke's Bay, from which red wines have been universally outstanding from the 2020 vintage. All grapes in this wine were handpicked and 10% whole cluster fermented with natural yeasts. The wine spent 24 months ageing in oak barrels, of which 42% were new; a high portions that is easily absorbed into this commanding Syrah. **18.5 points – Joelle Thomson**

With outstanding fruit purity, it's splendidly composed and expressed on the nose, showing blackberry, violet, clove, tapenade and roasted nut characters. The powerfully expressed palate delivers plush texture combined with bold tannins, making it robust and sturdy. It's solidly built while offering beautiful balanced and harmony. At its best: 2025 to 2037. **97 points – Sam Kim**

Hues of dark red ruby and light purple with a magenta rim lead to a bouquet of ripe red berry fruits and fresh meats, baking spices of vanilla and a touch of cinnamon then violet and stone earth suggestions. The oak has a layer of smoke then a new wood power. There's also a fresh Brazil nut quality that come to mind. Overall a bright, youthful, and engaging bouquet. A dry wine touches the palate with a youthful, fleshy texture, an abundance of tannins and refreshing acid line. Flavours reflect the bouquet of boysenberry and tart raspberry; there's a light white pepper note then flavours from wood and earth. A wine that requires some settling in time with best drinking from 2025 through 2034. **94 points – Cameron Douglas MS**

The finely crafted 2020 vintage (5\*) was estate-grown in the Stone Vineyard, in the Gimblett Gravels, and matured for two years in French oak barrels (42 per cent new). Benchmark stuff, it is deeply coloured and mouthfilling, with highly concentrated, ripe plum, spice and black pepper flavours, and a complex, well-structured, very harmonious finish. Likely to be long-lived, it's well worth cellaring to 2027+ **5 stars – Michael Cooper**



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### 2020 Elephant Hill STONE Merlot Cabernets

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The STONE vineyard is found in the heart of the Gimblett Gravels, a former flood plain comprised of deep river gravel and silt layers. The stony top soils absorb and radiate heat to create intensely concentrated, well structured, bold and long-lived wines.

### Tasting Note

A classic Bordeaux style blend grown on free draining soils. Packed with ripe, black berry and plum fruit, subtle oak spices and velvet soft tannins.

### Reviews & scores

95 points	Candice Chow
94 points	Bob Campbell MW
19 points	Joelle Thomson
97 points	Sam Kim
95 points	Cameron Douglas MS
5 stars	Michael Cooper

### Vintage Overview

2020 was a near perfect vintage for Hawke's Bay, with a warm and dry growing season allowing picking to start early for the whites with superb ripeness and impeccable, healthy and clean fruit overall. Exceptional quality reds, with great elegance, rich complexity and concentration. Very age worthy wines with long cellaring potential.

### Winemaking

53% Merlot, 24% Cab Sauv, 23% Cab Franc handpicked from very low yielding vines. Inoculated & natural ferment, with natural springtime malolactic. Aged 24 months in French barrels, 23% new, and a further 4 months on light lees. 300 cases produced.

### Technical Data

Vineyard	Wine
100% STONE (Gimblett Gravels)	Alcohol: 14.5%
	Residual Sugar: <1 g/L
<b>Clones</b>	
Merlot - 181	
Cabernet Sauvignon - 10	
Cabernet Franc - 326	

'Powerful, classy...deliciously concentrated' - Michael Cooper

'One of the best Merlots that I have ever tasted' - Joelle Thomson

RRP \$65 per bottle



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

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## 2020 STONE Merlot Cabernets - critics scores & notes

Full, deep ruby-red, lighter on edge. The nose is full and enticing with blackberry, cassis, plum, menthol, violet, stony minerals aromas and an amalgam of spice. Full-bodied, red plum, cassis and blackberry aromas interweaved with violet, stony minerals, clove, nutmeg, liquorice and savoury elements. A mealy palate packed with smooth, fine-grained tannins, iron-rich minerals and savoury elements. The fruit is concentrated with a great balance of sweet and sour; spices linger to a long, sustained finish. This red blend shows a concentrated, weighty, smooth mouthfeel, packed with richness, spice and beautiful fruit balance. Match with bavette steak and short ribs over the next 10 years. **95 points - Candice Chow**

Inky red from an excellent vintage with concentrated berry, chocolate/mocha, black Doris plum, old leather, and mixed spice flavours. Approachable now but should benefit from a few years in bottle. **94 points - Bob Campbell MW**

This impressive deep ruby hued, intensely smooth, plummy tasting red is one of the best Merlots that I have ever tasted and is made with grapes 100% from Gimblett Gravels Winegrowing District. Although, truth be told, this wine is not 100% Merlot, which constitutes 53% of the blend, along with deep blackberry scented aromas of Cabernet Sauvignon with 24% of the blend and the lifted fragrance of 23% Cabernet Franc. All grapes were handpicked, and wild yeast fermented with the wine aged for two years in barrels, which sounds like a long time, especially for nearly a quarter of the oak (23%) to be new wood, but this robust, full bodied expression of great grapes from great sites in Hawke's Bay is superbly well balanced. And drinking well now, it clearly also has a long life ahead. **19 points – Joelle Thomson**

This is immediately captivating on the nose, showing blackcurrant, Black Doris plum, floral, mixed spice and cedar notes, followed by an impressively weighty palate that's plump and substantial. Beautifully framed by finely infused tannins, it's gutsy and sophisticated at the same time with a prolonged structured finish. From Gimblett Gravels. At its best: 2025 to 2037. **97 points – Sam Kim**

A bouquet of muscle and power, ripeness and enticement with roasted plums and dark berries, boysenberry and blue fruits. Other aromas come from the scents of smoky wood and cacao, clove and baked vanilla pod, dark plums and violets. There's a suggestion of black liquorice, freshly roasted coffee bean and bitter chocolate. Firm, dry, an abundance of plums and fine tannins, a salty acid line and baked nut quality. Delicious and refreshing, plenty of weight and intensity, a wine that can be enjoyed today, aged and well matched to food anytime. Best drinking from 2026 through 2036+ **95 points – Cameron Douglas MS**

The powerful, classy 2020 vintage (5\*) is a blend of Merlot (53 per cent), Cabernet Sauvignon (24 per cent) and Cabernet Franc (23 per cent). Grown in the Gimblett Gravels, it was matured for two years in French oak casks (23 per cent new). Dark, it has dense, deliciously concentrated blackcurrant, plum and spice flavours, showing excellent complexity, refined tannins, and a well-structured, long finish. It should flourish for a decade – or longer. **5 stars – Michael Cooper**



## ICONS

The **Icon range** represents the pinnacle of Elephant Hill's winemaking. These wines are simply, the very best examples of the three key wines styles we produce: Chardonnay, Syrah and Bordeaux Blends.

Hand crafted in small batches, in low volumes, from a selection of only the best grapes, from the best vineyard blocks and aged in the best quality French barrels.

These special wines are for collecting and cellaring and will age well in bottle for many years. The wines can come from one or more of our three vineyards, and so is the ultimate winemaker's and barrel selection of the vintage, made only in exceptional years when quality allows.

**Salomé** is our finest Chardonnay cuvée, named after a well-loved 18th century ancestor of the founding family of Elephant Hill, Maria Salomé Ebner von Eschenbach.

**Airavata** is our finest Syrah named after the most revered white elephant in Hindu mythology 'Airavata', the king of elephants, who carried the deity Indra on its back.

**Hieronymus** is a Bordeaux style red blend named after another notable family ancestor Hieronymus Ebner von Eschenbach, who was Lord Mayor of Nuremberg 1514-1524.





Elephant Hill produces handcrafted, small-batch wines from grapes grown in three sustainably farmed Hawke's Bay vineyards located in the Te Awanga, Bridge Pa and Gimblett Gravels sub regions, that each contributes a distinctive elemental character of SEA, EARTH & STONE.

### 2021 Elephant Hill SALOMÉ

Salomé is part of the Icon range, the pinnacle of our winemaking. Produced in limited quantities from the best vineyard blocks, best wine batches and best barrels.

Our flagship Chardonnay is a homage to Maria Salomé Ebner von Eschenbach, a beloved ancestor of the Weiss family who founded and own Elephant Hill.

### Tasting Note

This fine Chardonnay was a blend from two vineyard sites, mostly coastally grown Te Awanga fruit (4 barrels) with some warmer, inland Bridge Pa fruit (1 barrel). Powerful, intense and concentrated with hints of spice and flint.

### Reviews & scores

97 points	Candice Chow
95 points	Bob Campbell MW
19 points	Joelle Thomson
97 points	Sam Kim
97 points	Cameron Douglas MS
5 stars	Michael Cooper

'This is an exceptional Chardonnay' - Joelle Thomson

'This is immensely complex' - Sam Kim

### Vintage Overview

2021 completes a trifecta of outstanding Hawke's Bay vintages. Warmer than average overall in early summer and dry through to late summer and a cool dry autumn, helped retain elegance, natural acidity and balance. Fresh, concentrated and complex whites, and pure, ripe and elegant reds. All ageworthy and long lived wines.

### Winemaking

100% handpicked fruit, whole bunch pressed to barrel and naturally fermented, then partial malolactic. Aged 12 months in French oak barrels, 40% new, and a further 5 months on light lees. Will cellar 10+ years. 110 cases produced.

### Technical Data

Vineyard	Wine
80% SEA (Te Awanga)	Alcohol: 14.0%
20% EARTH (Bridge Pa)	Residual Sugar: 2 g/L
<b>Clones</b>	
Chardonnay - 15 (80%) & Mendoza (20%)	

RRP \$95 per bottle



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## 2021 SALOMÉ - critics scores & notes

Bright, pale yellow-gold, even colour throughout. The bouquet is enticing and layered, with aromas of stone fruit, citrus, delicate floral, sweet spice and integrated nutty elements. Full-bodied, aromas of apricot, lemon sherbet and lemon curd melded with roasted hazelnut, brown butter, and sweet spice. The acidity is tangy with tension and drive, cutting through a weighty palate and lending a lengthy finish with a hint of saline and delicate spice. This Chardonnay is complex and rich with integrated elements, and acid precision drives a lasting finish. Match with crayfish ravioli and king mushrooms over the next 10 years  
**97 points - Candice Chow**

Concentrated chardonnay from a top Hawke's Bay vintage with a salty tang, lemon curd, grapefruit, ginger, and nicely integrated spicy French oak. Deliciously drinkable now although the wine will benefit from 5 or 6 years in bottle if you prefer a seamless texture and greater complexity. **95 points - Bob Campbell MW**

This is an exceptional Chardonnay from Hawke's Bay and has all the complexity and character of a great Chablis. Complex layers of savoury, creamy, citrusy notes add character to this rich, creamy, full-bodied wine. Its elevated acidity adds a tangy taste to every sip and is beautifully balanced by its full body. Salomé is a blend of grapes grown at the Sea Vineyard at Te Awanga for 80% with the balance from Earth Vineyard at Bridge Pa; all handpicked and whole bunch pressed with natural fermentation (no added yeasts). **19 points - Joelle Thomson**

This is immensely complex and alluring with tropical fruit, ripe citrus, subtle spice, cedar, and savoury pastry characters on the nose. The impressively concentrated palate delivers richly textured mouthfeel, beautifully framed by juicy acidity. It's seamless and gorgeously flowing with a sustained, gratifying finish. At its best: 2024 to 2035. **97 points – Sam Kim**

A very complex bouquet that begins to reveal its layers once in glass for around ten minutes. Aromas of apples and salty stones, white peach, and citrus zest. The impact of new oak is revealed with a toasty white smoke and baking spice package of scents, vanilla, and raw cashew nut. There's a core of umami scents that can only come from the synergies of soil, fruit, wood, and outstanding winemaking. On the palate an exceptional wine with a youthful tautness and squeeze then flavours of stone-fruit and nut, citrus and barrel spice, fine tannins, and acidity. A weighty wine on the palate with a youthful energy and drive along with a complex and dry finish. Best drinking from late 2024 through 2033. A wine that offers exceptional value. **97 points – Cameron Douglas MS**

The outstanding 2021 vintage (5\*) was estate-grown and hand-harvested at Te Awanga (80 per cent) and in the Bridge Pa Triangle (20 per cent) and fermented and matured for a year in French oak casks (40 per cent new). Bright, light lemon/green, it has a fragrant, complex bouquet. Mouthfilling, it has intense, vigorous, peachy flavours, seasoned with biscuity, slightly toasty oak, balanced acidity, and a long, savoury finish. A refined, structured wine with hidden depths, it's still unfolding and well worth cellaring to mid-2025+ **5 stars – Michael Cooper**



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### 2020 Elephant Hill AIRAVATA

Airavata is part of the Icon range, the pinnacle of our winemaking. Produced in limited quantities from the best vineyard blocks, best wine batches and best barrels.

Our finest Syrah is named after the most revered white elephant in Hindu mythology 'Airavata', the king of elephants, who carried the deity Indra on it's back.

### Tasting Note

Handpicked Syrah from select vineyard blocks has created an impressively concentrated, spice laden, fruit rich wine with incredible, complex layers of flavours and silky tannins.

### Reviews & scores

97 points	Candice Chow
95 points	Bob Campbell MW
18.5 points	Joelle Thomson
98 points	Sam Kim
97 points	Cameron Douglas MS
5 stars	Michael Cooper

### Vintage Overview

2020 was a near perfect vintage for Hawke's Bay, with a warm and dry growing season allowing picking to start early for the whites with superb ripeness and impeccable, healthy and clean fruit overall. Exceptional quality reds, with great elegance, rich complexity and concentration. Very age worthy wines with long cellaring potential.

### Winemaking

99% Syrah co-fermented with 1% Viognier, 30% whole bunch, all handpicked. Aged 24 months in French oak barrels, 40% new, and a further 4 months on lees before bottling. Will cellar 10+ years. 110 cases produced.

### Technical Data

Vineyard	Wine
60% STONE (Gimblett Gravels)	Alcohol: 13.0%
39% EARTH (Bridge Pa)	Residual Sugar: <1 g/L
1% SEA (Te Awanga)	
<b>Clones</b>	
Syrah - 470 (80%) & MS (20%)	

'Tribute to the great reds of the Northern Rhone in France' - Joelle Thomson

'An emerging star, powerful and dense' - Michael Cooper

RRP \$125 per bottle



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## 2020 AIRAVATA - critics scores & notes

Full, deep ruby-red, lighter on the rim. The nose is alluring, complex yet harmonious, with aromas of plum, boysenberry, blackberry and violet melded with minerals and spice. Full-bodied, aromas of plum and boysenberry entwined with violet, savoury, earthy elements, smoked meat, nutmeg and clove. The mouthfeel is rich and dense, packed with savoury mineral details; fine-grained, smooth tannins provide structure, along with black tea fragrance and earthy minerals, clinging to the side of the palate and lingering to a lasting closing. This flagship Syrah is impressive, well-structured with concentration, fine-grained tannins and balanced acidity. Match with venison and roasted lamb over the next 12+ years. **97 points - Candice Chow**

A co-fermented blend of syrah 99% and viognier 1% has produced a supple, elegant wine with ripe plum, black pepper, and subtle floral flavours. Deliciously accessible now but with cellaring potential. Well-structured red with a backbone of sweet, ripe tannins. **95 points - Bob Campbell MW**

This wine pays tribute to the great reds of the Northern Rhone Valley in France with 99% Syrah complemented by 1% of Viognier. The grapes were co fermented to add soft fleshy textures and a peachy note to the dark spicy fruit of ripe Syrah, which is a blend of grapes grown on the Gimblett Gravels, Bridge Pa and 1% from Te Awanga. This judicious, clever blending followed by 24 months of ageing in oak barrels (40% new) all adds an impressively structured framework to the wine while also allowing its savoury taste to lead the flavours here. This tastes youthful now and can age for at least a decade. **18.5 points – Joelle Thomson**

Power and grace in one, this stunning expression shows rich fruit intensity, toasty oak, cured meat and potpourri aromas on the nose, followed by a substantial palate delivering plush texture and multi-layered mouthfeel. Tannins are fine and grainy, combined with opulence and impeccable balance, leading to an ultra-long, delectable finish. At its best: 2025 to 2040. **98 points – Sam Kim**

Fabulous colour and intensity with polished ruby and purple hues lead to a complex and layered bouquet of ripe red berry fruits, flowers and spices, an earthy stone and clay soil suggestion and oak with a myriad baking spices and smoky oak. There's a lovely pretty side to the bouquet that unfurls slowly as the wine becomes ambient. Delicious on the palate beginning with a youthful and quite locked up attack with a taut texture and firmness from tannins and acidity. Then, as the wine begins to open out and relax just a little the core flavours of variety and complexity begin to show with fresh, baked and compote of black currant, boysenberry and meat, savoury almost peppery mushroom then clove and smoky wood with a whisper of bacon. There's a nut and dark cacao note and violets. An outstanding wine that needs your patience cellar. Best drinking from 2027 through 2040. **97 points – Cameron Douglas MS**

An emerging star. The powerful, dense 2020 vintage (5\*) was estate-grown and hand-harvested in the Gimblett Gravels (60 per cent), the Bridge Pa Triangle (39 per cent), and at Te Awanga (1 per cent). Blended with a splash of Viognier (1 per cent), it was matured for two years in French oak casks (40 per cent new). Dark and supple, it is highly concentrated, with ripe plum, blackcurrant and spice flavours, complex and savoury, buried tannins, and lovely richness and harmony. Full of cellaring potential, it should flourish for at least a decade; maybe a lot longer. **5 stars – Michael Cooper**



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### 2020 Elephant Hill HIERONYMUS

Hieronymus is part of the Icon range, the pinnacle of our winemaking. Produced in limited quantities from the best vineyard blocks, best wine batches and best barrels.

This Cabernet Merlot, our top Bordeaux style blend, is named after Hieronymus Ebner von Eschenbach, who was Lord Mayor of Nuremberg 1514- 1524, and is a notable ancestor of the Weiss family, who founded and own Elephant Hill.

### Tasting Note

Only the finest handpicked fruit from the deep gravels of our STONE vineyard is selected for this dark, full and densely rich wine. Loaded with cassis, plum, chocolate, espresso flavours and a touch of spice.

### Reviews & scores

97 points	Candice Chow
95 points	Bob Campbell MW
18.5 points	Joelle Thomson
98 points	Sam Kim
98 points	Cameron Douglas MS
5 stars	Michael Cooper

### Vintage Overview

2020 was a near perfect vintage for Hawke's Bay, with a warm and dry growing season allowing picking to start early for the whites with superb ripeness and impeccable, healthy and clean fruit overall. Exceptional quality reds, with great elegance, rich complexity and concentration. Very age worthy wines with long cellaring potential.

### Winemaking

39% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 23% Cabernet Franc handpicked from very low yielding vines. Inoculated & natural primary ferment, with natural springtime malolactic. Aged 24 months in French barrels, 54% new. Will cellar 10+ years. 251 cases produced.

### Technical Data

Vineyard	Wine
100% STONE (Gimblett Gravels)	Alcohol: 14.5% Residual Sugar: <1 g/L
<b>Clones</b>	
Cabernet Sauvignon - 10	
Merlot - 181	
Cabernet Franc - 326	

'Bordeaux lovers will adore this commanding wine' - Joelle Thomson

'A glorious rendition...gorgeously scented...powerfully concentrated' - Sam Kim

RRP \$125 per bottle



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## 2020 HIERONYMUS - critics scores & notes

Full, deep ruby-red, lighter on edge. The nose is attractive and harmonious, packed with bright cherry, cassis, plum, violet, cigar, minerals and an amalgam of spice. Full-bodied, elegant and rich red cherry, cassis and black plum aromas entwined with violet, cigar, clove, star anise and stony minerals. The mouthfeel is velvety with fine-grained tannins, unfolding a rich mineral palate. The concentrated fruit shows vibrant with lively acidity and carries a long, lengthy finish. This flagship red blend is powerful, rich, full of details, broadness and length. Match with Tomahawk and braised short ribs over the next 15 years. **97 points - Candice Chow**

A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc from the Gimblett Gravels sub-region. Dense, almost chewy wine with chocolate/mocha, cedar, charcuterie and leather flavours. Bordeaux-like red with cellaring potential. **95 points - Bob Campbell MW**

Bordeaux lovers will adore this commanding Cabernet Sauvignon with its powerful aromas of blackcurrant leaf, a hint of green pepper and savoury spice are fleshed out with Merlot adding body and a softness in the mid palate (38% of the blend) and dark red berry flavour notes coming from 23% Cabernet Franc. Natural yeast fermentation (no commercial yeasts added) was followed by 24 months of ageing in barrel, a chunky 54% new oak, which sits comfortably in this impressive ripe red wine. This is deliciously, succulently drinkable now but has structure that begs to be aged and matured for up to a decade and beyond.

**18.5 points – Joelle Thomson**

A glorious rendition, the gorgeously scented bouquet shows cassis, warm spice, subtle tobacco and cedary oak characters, leading to a powerfully concentrated palate exhibiting exceptional depth and presence, together with finely woven chalky tannins, finishing structured with an impressive line and length. At its best: 2025 to 2040. **98 points – Sam Kim**

An exceptional wine with a powerful, ripe and complex bouquet. Scents of black and blue fruits, dark spices of barrel and aromas of blackberry and black currants, dark chocolate and freshly roasted coffee beans, violets and baked earth, fresh boysenberries, plums and kalamata olives. Powerful, complex and dry on the palate, salivating taut, lush and detailed. A wine of concentration and intensity from the core of dark berry fruit flavours, firm ripe and polished tannins delivering long chain mouthfeel compressed by a backbone of acidity. A wine that keeps repeating flavours and textures with an exceptionally lengthy finish. Best drinking from 2028 through 2050. **98 points – Cameron Douglas MS**

The distinguished 2020 vintage is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (39 per cent), Merlot (39 per cent), and Cabernet Franc (22 per cent), matured for two years in French oak casks (54 per cent new). Densely coloured, it is almost super-charged, with lush, notably concentrated blackcurrant, plum and spice flavours, and ripe, supple tannins. A wine with a real sense of soul, it is already approachable, but set for a very long life. Best drinking 2027+. **5 stars – Michael Cooper**