

# Saint Clair Rapaura Merlot

Full bodied with lifted aromas of black fruits, vanilla and cinnamon spice.

## Colour:

Dense deep garnet red.

## Aroma:

Fruit driven aromas showing ripe plum with blueberry and cinnamon.

## Palate:

Rich and complex with layers of black fruits and aromatic warm spices. A robust wine with vanilla, cinnamon and a long savoury finish.

## Ageing Potential:

Drinking beautifully from the outset, this wine can be enjoyed young or, with careful cellaring, will mature into a fuller and more complex wine that can be enjoyed for the next 5 years or beyond.

## Viticulture:

The fruit was harvested from Saint Clair's naturally low cropping Rapaura Road vineyard. The fruit was carefully monitored as it ripened to full maturity and harvested at the beginning of April.

## Winemaking:

Grapes were de-stemmed into small stainless steel fermenters for a five-day cold soak to help maximise flavour and colour extraction. Following the addition of specially selected yeast the fermenting wine was hand plunged and pumped over to gently extract flavour, colour and tannin. Once primary fermentation was completed the young wine was kept in contact with skins and tasted daily until the right extraction and balance was achieved. The next step was to gently press the wine off its skins, leaving it to settle, then racking to 33 per cent new French oak where it underwent secondary fermentation (malolactic fermentation). After ageing on light lees the wine was blended, balanced and carefully prepared for bottling.

## Wine Analysis:

Alcohol 13.5% v/v  
Titrateable Acidity 6.2g/litre  
pH 3.6

## Food Match:

Ideally matched with rich game dishes such as wild venison with a red wine reduction and fresh green beans.

## Vegetarian Friendly



Senior Winemaker  
Hamish Clark

Senior Winemaker  
Kyle Thompson

Contact  
Saint Clair Family Estate  
Cnr Rapaura and Selmes Roads, Marlborough,  
New Zealand, PO Box 920, Blenheim, New Zealand  
Freephone (NZ Only) 0800 282 111  
Phone +64 (0)3 578 8695 Fax +64 (0)3 578 8696  
Email: wine@saintclair.co.nz www.saintclair.co.nz

SAINT CLAIR  
FAMILY ESTATE