

esk
valley.

GREAT DIRT COLLECTION

HILLSIDE 2019

MALBEC, MERLOT, CABERNET FRANC, SYRAH
BAY VIEW, HAWKES BAY

VINEYARD DESCRIPTION

This wine is sourced from the famed "Terraces" vineyard. This limestone-based vineyard on the northwest facing hillside at the old Esk Valley winery site in Bay View has long been known for its ability to make elegant and complex wine. The vineyard was initially planted in Malbec, Merlot, Cabernet Franc in 1989 on re-established terraces which had sat idle for 30 years and then in 2007 an area of scrubland at the top of the hill was cleared for a small plot of Syrah. The vineyard is densely planted and dry-farmed with extremely low yields per vine.

WINEMAKING

The Bordeaux varieties were hand harvested and destemmed to a single concrete fermenter while the Syrah, also hand harvested was fermented separately and blended later. The fermentations were conducted with indigenous yeasts and managed with hand plunging. A period of maceration followed to soften tannins and add complexity. The new wine underwent malolactic fermentation in French oak barriques and then given a further 18 months ageing before blending and bottling in March 2021. The wine was bottled unfiltered and unfiltered.

WINEMAKER'S COMMENT

This dark-fruited and complex wine integrates the structure of Bordeaux varietals with the elegance of Syrah. Flavours tend towards red fruits, plum, dark cherry and spice. Earthy tobacco and cedar notes add further complexity. The wine is soft and mouth-filling with well-ripened tannins and although approachable as a young wine should continue to develop complexity for many years to come. Decant before serving

IDEAL DRINKING

2021 - 2030+

TECHNICAL DETAILS

REGION: Bay View Hawkes Bay

VARIETIES: Malbec 36% Merlot 27% Cabernet Franc 24% Syrah 13%

OAK USE: 20 months in 225 litre french oak barriques - 37% new

ALCOHOL: 14.5%

PH: 3.84

TOTAL ACIDITY: 5.71g/L

RESIDUAL SUGAR: <1g/L

Suitable for gluten free diets. Decanting of this wine is recommended as the winemaking techniques used may produce a natural deposit. www.eskvalley.co.nz

