

## THE HILLSIDE

HAWKES BAY

MALBEC, CABERNET FRANC, MERLOT 2017

*esk  
valley.*

### VINEYARD DESCRIPTION

This wine is sourced from the famed "the 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 planted in Malbec, Merlot and Cabernet Franc was re-established in 1989 after sitting idle for 30 years. Densely planted, dry-farmed without irrigation and intensively managed, it was harvested on a single day and co-fermented as a field blend to capture the true essence of the vineyard.

### WINEMAKING

The individual vineyard parcels were hand-harvested and destemmed to a single 85-year old concrete fermenter. The fermentation was gently managed with hand plunging and 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. The wine was then bottled without fining and filtration.

### WINEMAKER'S COMMENT

This is dark-fruited wine and complex wine. 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.

### FOOD MATCH

Enjoy with rich red meat and game dishes.

### IDEAL DRINKING

2020 - 2035

### TECHNICAL DETAILS

REGION: Hawkes Bay - Bay View

VARIETIES: Malbec, Cabernet Franc, Merlot

OAK USE: 18 months in French oak - 50% new

ALCOHOL: 14.0% PH: 3.82

TOTAL ACIDITY: 5.47g/L RESIDUAL SUGAR: 0.0g/L

### AWARDS & ACCOLADES

96/100 – Sam Kim, Wine Orbit

92/100 – Bob Campbell MW

Contains sulphites. 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](http://www.eskvalley.co.nz)

