Bilancia

Crafted from hand-harvested fruit grown on the sunny slopes of the la collina vineyard, the Bilancia La Collina Syrah delivers a captivating blend of black fruit, savory notes , and finely integrated oak, with the structure and depth to age gracefully.

BILANCIA

La Collina Syrah 2020

Hawkes Bay, New Zealand

Region and Vineyards

Bilancia's **La Collina Syrah** comes from the **la collina vineyard** in Hawke's Bay, one of New Zealand's premier wine regions. The **sun-facing hillside** vineyard benefits from a warm climate, which is ideal for ripening Syrah, while the **cooling sea breezes** help maintain acidity and freshness in the grapes. The vineyard's position above the renowned **Gimblett Gravels** ensures that the Syrah grapes develop deep, concentrated flavors while maintaining elegance and structure.

This vineyard is managed with a focus on low yields, ensuring that the fruit is of the highest quality, with small, intensely flavored berries. The grapes are **hand-harvested** in multiple passes to ensure optimal ripeness for each parcel.

Winemaking

The Bilancia La Collina Syrah is crafted using traditional **co-fermentation techniques**, where a small portion of **Viognier skins** is added to the Syrah during fermentation. This method, inspired by the great wines of the Northern Rhône, adds aromatic complexity and enhances the wine's texture.

The wine undergoes **21 months of aging** in **light-impact French oak barrels**, which allows the tannins to soften and the wine's flavors to integrate seamlessly. The use of **new French oak** is carefully balanced to complement the fruit without overwhelming it. The result is a wine with great **elegance**, **harmony**, and the potential for long-term aging.

Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 100% Syrah

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep ruby with purple highlights.
- **Aroma**: A complex bouquet of **lavender, rose petals**, and **dark berries**, alongside savory notes of **smoked meat**, **black tea**, and **graphite**. Subtle hints of **star anise**, **clove**, and **umami** add further layers of complexity.
- **Palate**: The palate is **light yet powerful**, with flavors of **pomegranate**, **blackcurrant**, and **dark raspberry**, complemented by notes of **spice** and **earth**. The wine's **ultra-fine tannins** and lively acidity create a long, persistent finish with layers of evolving flavors.
- **Finish**: Long and elegant, with lingering notes of **black pepper**, **clove**, and **smoky meat**.

98

Robert Parker (RP) : 98 Points (2020)

The 2020 La Collina Syrah is far bloodier and more savory than the 2021 tasted beside it, and it shows the advantage that we as drinkers have when selecting which wines to drink; we have choice. This is balanced, placid, sure, mineral and fine, shaped by a splay of ferruginous tannins through the finish. It drags across the palate and continues long after the wine has gone, but it is quiet ... and that is a wonderful thing. It has at once the piercing intensity and focus of the song of a bellbird, but equally, it reveals expanse and depth in the kaleidoscope of rose petals, graphite, river stones and dried herbs. Superstar. Drink it now or regret it forever—the wines age gracefully and long, but the trouble with them is that they taste so great as young wines. Your call. 13.5% alcohol, sealed under screw cap.

99 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 99 Points (2019)

An exceptional La Collina release with such impressive depth and power, yet elegant and detailed, too. Aromas of black tea, red cherry and plum, pomegranate, cola nut, white pepper, clove and graphite. The palate is defined by long, tensile tannins and holds such pure fresh-fruit flavor in an intense, deep and focused finish. Power with elegance and purity here. Excellent syrah. Their finest release to date. Try from 2024.