



Te Mata

The Te Mata Awatea Cabernet Merlot 2018 is a sophisticated blend from Hawke's Bay, offering vibrant fruit, structure, and elegance, making it a classic example of New Zealand's premium Bordeaux-style reds.



Awatea 2018

Hawkes Bay, New Zealand

Region and Vineyards

The **Hawke's Bay** region, located on the eastern coast of New Zealand's **North Island**, is one of the country's premier wine regions, particularly for **Bordeaux-style** blends. The region benefits from a **warm, maritime climate**, with long, dry summers that are ideal for the slow ripening of **Cabernet Sauvignon**, **Merlot**, and **Cabernet Franc**. The vineyards for the **Awatea 2018** were hand-harvested between **March 25 and April 20, 2018**, a season marked by warm and dry conditions that contributed to the development of concentrated flavors and fine tannins.

The vineyards are planted on **well-draining soils**, which enhance the fruit's intensity, and the grapes are grown using sustainable farming practices, ensuring that only the highest quality fruit is selected for the blend.

Winemaking

The **2018 Awatea** is a blend of **48% Cabernet Sauvignon**, **37% Merlot**, and **15% Cabernet Franc**. The grapes were harvested by hand, then **destemmed** and subjected to a **warm, plunged fermentation** in separate parcels. Following fermentation, the wines underwent an **extended maceration** on the skins to extract color and tannins before being transferred to **new and seasoned French oak barrels** for **16 months** of aging.

During the aging process, the wines were regularly **topped and racked**, ensuring full integration of the oak while preserving the wine's natural fruit character. The separate parcels were blended in **January 2019** and returned to barrels for their second winter, followed by **egg white fining** and bottling in **October 2019**. This careful vinification process resulted in a wine that combines power, complexity, and elegance.

Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 48% Cabernet
Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 15%
Cabernet Franc



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Awatea 2018

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep inky purple with an electric crimson edge.
- **Aroma:** Intense aromatics of **blackberry**, **black currant**, and **dark plum**, with underlying notes of **vanilla crème** and **sandalwood**.
- **Palate:** The palate is rich and vibrant, featuring flavors of **plum**, **raspberry**, and **dried herbs**, supported by **cedar** and **cocoa powder tannins**. The wine is classical in structure, with fine balance, length, and purity.
- **Finish:** Long and refined, with lingering notes of **dark cherry** and elegant, smooth tannins.

Did You Know?

The name **Awatea** means "Eye of the Dawn" in Maori, and it was also the name of a famous ship, the **SS Awatea**, that sailed the **Auckland-Sydney-Wellington** route in the late 1930s. This ship was later requisitioned for WWII, adding a historic significance to the wine's name .

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Roast lamb with rosemary and garlic:** The richness of the lamb is balanced by the wine's fruit and tannin structure, while the herbal notes enhance the flavors of rosemary and garlic.
- **Beef tenderloin with mushroom sauce:** The wine's dark fruit and cedar flavors complement the earthiness of mushrooms and the richness of the beef.
- **Grilled portobello mushrooms:** The wine's tannins and dark fruit flavors enhance the umami notes of grilled mushrooms, creating a balanced pairing.
- **Hard cheeses like aged cheddar:** The wine's structure and acidity pair perfectly with the strong, nutty flavors of aged cheeses.



Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 95 Points (2018)

This is an excellent bottling of Awatea, the younger brother of Te Mata's top red, Coleraine. From a long, warm growing season, this feels like a complete wine. Winter warming notes of plump plums, dark cherries and chocolate are complemented by a bounty of dried herbs, spices and graphite. The palate is similarly dense and structured but with elegance and balance. Tannins are powdery and fine, winding through dark, tangy fruit and herbs. Like many of Te Mata's wines, it has an old school Bordeaux vibe that will appeal more to some than to others. (5/2021)



Robert Parker (RP) : 93 Points (2018)

The 2018 Awatea Cabernets Merlot carries on the theme of the 2015, 2016 and 2017 Awateas: balanced, chewy and spicy. The thread of fruit laces through all four vintages, sometimes red, sometimes black and always succulent. This is a slightly darker version of the others, perhaps in line with the 2015.





Awatea 2018



James Suckling (JS) : 93 Points (2018)

There's a very attractive, cedary edge to this with red cherries, redcurrants and blueberries, as well as darker plum and cocoa notes. The palate is so composed and fresh and has a vivid, detailed and neatly layered feel. Drinks well now, as it will for the next six to eight years.



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