



Te Mata

The Te Mata Estate Cabernet Merlot is a classic Bordeaux-style blend from Hawke's Bay, showcasing a balance of ripe dark fruit, structured tannins, and subtle oak influence. This wine embodies the best qualities of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Cabernet Franc, expressing the vintage's rich concentration and elegance.



Alcohol :12,50 %

Composition: 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc

Estate Merlot - Cabernet 2020

Hawkes Bay, New Zealand

Region and Vineyards

The grapes for the **Te Mata Estate Cabernet Merlot** were hand-harvested from **Te Mata Estate's own vineyards** in **Hawke's Bay**, specifically in the subregions of the **Havelock Hills, Bridge Pā Triangle, Gimblett Gravels, and Dartmoor**. These areas benefit from **free-draining soils** and a **warm maritime climate**, providing optimal conditions for **Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Cabernet Franc** to ripen fully .

This vintage was characterized by long, dry weather, which allowed the fruit to reach excellent ripeness while retaining balance and structure. This perfect growing season is reflected in the concentration and depth of the wine.

Winemaking

The **Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Cabernet Franc** grapes were harvested between **19 March and 1 April**, then **de-stemmed** and underwent **warm fermentation** in separate parcels. After fermentation, the wine remained on the skins for an **extended maceration** to enhance color and tannin extraction. The wine was then pressed and transferred to **French oak barrels**, both new and seasoned, for **12 months** of maturation .

During this time, the wines were regularly **topped and racked**, ensuring the full integration of oak and fruit. After maturation, the final blend of **45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot, and 14% Cabernet Franc** was traditionally **egg-white fined** before bottling, creating a smooth and harmonious wine .

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Intense, bright-dark crimson.
- **Aroma:** The wine opens with vibrant notes of **ripe raspberry, wild blackberry, and black plum**, supported by layers of **dark chocolate** and **velvety tannins**.
- **Palate:** Sumptuous and layered, the palate reveals rich fruit flavors complemented by hints of **sandalwood, French vanilla, and pipe tobacco**. The wine has excellent depth, structure, and a long, satisfying finish with great balance and power.



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Did You Know?

Te Mata Estate, founded in **1896**, remains one of New Zealand's oldest family-owned wineries. All the wines are **estate-grown** and **estate-bottled**, ensuring full control over every aspect of the winemaking process. The winery has a long history of producing **Bordeaux-style** blends that have gained international recognition .

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Aged cheeses**: The wine's richness and complexity pair beautifully with **hard cheeses** like **cheddar** or **gouda**.
- **Roast lamb**: The structure and dark fruit of the wine complement the savory, rich flavors of **herb-roasted lamb**.
- **Beef Wellington**: The wine's depth and tannins balance the richness of **beef Wellington** and its pastry crust.
- **Grilled vegetables**: The wine's dark fruit and subtle tobacco notes enhance the charred flavors of **grilled eggplant** and **bell peppers**.



Robert Parker (RP) : **90 Points** (2020)

The 2021 Merlot Cabernet comprises 49% Merlot, 43% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8% Cabernet Franc. At \$25NZD (circa \$15 USD), this is ultra elegant. On the nose, it is leafy, earthy, spicy and brambly, and in the mouth, it's a classic, light to medium-bodied Bordeaux blend. It's a lovely, fleshy, brambly and juicy wine with blood plums, damsons, bay leaf and salted licorice. Excellent value for the money! Resolved, savory and so good. 13.5% alcohol, sealed under screw cap.



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