

RAYMONDCHANWINERREVIEWS.CO.NZ

Raymond Chan, May 2018

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5 Stars & 19.0- / 20 Points

Very dark, deep, black-hued ruby-red colour, a little lighter on the rim with slight purple hues. The nose is well-proportioned with deeply concentrated and intense aromas of ripe blackberry and black plum fruit melded with notes of dark raspberries entwined with Asian spices, black pepper and minerals, unfolding a fine blackcurrant, cassis and herbal edge, with dark-red floral elements emerging with aeration. Medium-full bodied, the palate is packed with concentrated and deep flavours of ripe blackberries, dark raspberries and plums, with notes of black pepper, Asian spices, liquorice, currants and herbs. The fruit is sweetly rich and supported by considerable fine-grained tannin structure with a line of lacy acidity providing tension and drive. The flavours blossom with spices and florals as the wine carries to a long, lingering finish. This is a fine and firmly concentrated Merlot/Syrah/Cabernet blend with blackberry, plum, spice and peppery fruit flavours on a palate with plenty of fine-grained structure. Match with lamb, beef, venison, and semi-hard cheeses over the next 8+ years. A blend of 48% Merlot, 30% Syrah, 12% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Malbec and 4% Cabernet Franc, from the 'Ata Rangi', 'Craighall', 'Kahu', 'Di Mattina', 'Champ Ali' and 'Hau Ariki' vineyards on the Martinborough Terrace, fermented to 13.5% alc., the wine aged 12 months in 22% new oak, then given a further 12 months in neutral oak.

BOBCAMPBELL.NZ

Bob Campbell MW, June 2018

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4 Stars & 92 Points

A sturdy blend of merlot, syrah and cabernet sauvignon, which gives a nod in the direction of Bordeaux. Moderately intense red with dark berry, dried herb, anise, liquorice and spicy oak flavours. Can be appreciated now (best with food) but should develop well. Drink 2018 to 2025.