



# CROSSROADS

## HAWKES BAY

### Crossroads RGF 2002

*Crossroads Winery and Vineyard sits in the winegrowing district of Fernhill in Hawkes Bay. A boutique winery founded in 1990 that has rapidly gained a reputation for producing elegant wines of high quality and consistency. Located on the east coast of the North Island of New Zealand, Hawkes Bay is traditionally a leading wine producing area with a record of making wine of the highest quality for over 100 years. Its five rivers and significant protecting mountain range to the west provide a consistent water supply and climate. Stony, free-draining soils and sunny climate result in full fruit style wines.*

“RGF”

The flagship of the Crossroads winery, RGF is a unique and long kept secret blend of six noble red wine grape varieties. RGF is named for the children of the Crossroads family: Rosemary, George and Frances. Like children grape varieties differ in personality, but in RGF the sum is always greater than the parts.

#### WINEMAKING / VITICULTURE

Hawkes Bay is the New Zealand wine region best suited to winegrowing for full bodied red wines. Fruit for our flagship red wine, RGF, is harvested from our Home Block, a vineyard based on deep river gravels. Such sites are chosen for their good aeration and strong drainage. Highly desirable these features allow viticultural control over vine vigour keeping growth balanced thus focusing vine energy into fruit ripening.

A unique and secret blend of six noble varieties all harvested and vinted separately. After gentle crushing and complete de-stemming the individual varietal components were fermented in small open top vessels. Regular hand plunging ensured gradual extraction of the colour and tannin that lends RGF its structure and presence. After fermentation the young wines were settled before being racked to new (63%) and older French and American oak barriques. Following twelve months maturation the components were progressively blended to produce a wine of the desired style before being returned to clean oak. An additional six months maturation as a complete blend allowed the components and oak to integrate; developing an elegant vinosity.

#### WINEMAKERS COMMENTS

A complex, deftly balanced wine with no single dominant varietal character. While the final blend of varieties may differ with the vintage, RGF is always a seamless assemblage. From the nose emerge fruit notes both red and dark which flow onto the palate. This fruit is complimented by more savoury and secondary nuances of tobacco, cedar and roasted coffee. Recognised as an excellent vintage the warmer harvest season of 2002 gives us a wine with a ripe, fine grained tannin structure which should ensure positive bottle development with careful cellaring.

For more information visit <http://www.crossroadswinery.co.nz>



#### VINTAGE INFORMATION

<b>Vintage</b>	2002
<b>Region</b>	Hawkes Bay, NZ
<b>Winemaker</b>	Matthew Mitchell
<b>Viticulturist</b>	John van der Linden
<b>Harvested</b>	Last 2 weeks of April 2002
<b>Oak Treatment</b>	12 months in new French & American oak barriques, 63% new.
<b>Alc/Vol</b>	12.95%
<b>Titrateable Acid</b>	6.80
<b>pH</b>	3.75
<b>Residual sugar</b>	Dry
<b>Cellaring</b>	now – 2009



Matthew Mitchell, Winemaker