



CROSSROADS

HAWKES BAY

Destination Series Hawkes Bay Merlot Cabernet 2001

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.

WINEMAKING / VITICULTURE

The Dartmoor Valley's Smith vineyard was the source of the merlot with the cabernet coming from both the Dartmoor's Evans Vineyard along with the Hastings vineyard in the acclaimed Gimblett Gravels appellation.

Utilising small open fermenters, it was possible to hand plunge the ferments two to three times daily, thereby obtaining gentle tannin extraction and subsequent modification of the tannin structure. After pressing and an initial settling, the new wine was racked to a mixture of French and American new barriques for aging for twelve months. During this time it was racked to assist with clarification and colour stabilisation.

WINEMAKERS COMMENTS

After a cool start to the vintage and somewhat slower than normal ripening, the warm February saw ripening accelerate usefully. Harvest was perfectly timed delivering healthy grapes at good sugar levels. Predominantly merlot this red offers a typical varietal plushness of texture. Nuances of berry-fruit, refined firmness of structure and palate length are evident cabernet sauvignon traits. Further bottle-aging will enhance the wines warm vinosity, further integrating the fruit and oak notes.

PRESS REVIEWS / AWARDS

Winestate Magazine, Sept/Oct 2004 issue

"Visually older by colour and nicely mellow with a sweet-earthy character adding lots of palate interest. A complete and enjoyable red."

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



VINTAGE INFORMATION

Vintage	2001
Region	Hawkes Bay, NZ
Winemaker	Matthew Mitchell
Viticulturist	John van der Linden
Harvested	April 2001
Oak Treatment	6 months in French oak, 40% new
Alc/Vol	12.5%
Residual sugar	nil
Cellaring	now – 2007



Matthew Mitchell, Winemaker