

MILLS REEF WINERY



www.millsreef.co.nz

Mills Reef wines are seriously structured and superbly styled, and offer excellent cellaring potential. But one thing stands out. Drinkability. From their youth, these are immensely attractive wines of fruit concentration and velvety texture, with seamlessly woven oak, exhibiting layers of deliciousness. They do mature magnificently as they put on extra dimension and complexity, making them irresistible wines to partner rich, flavoursome dishes.

Their success with red grapes – all the Bordeaux varieties plus syrah – from the Gimblett Gravels district has been quite stunning. And following on from the great 2009 wines, the current 2010s and 2011s offer outstanding quality and style, sure to satisfy red wine enthusiasts. The 2012s are lighter – beautiful rather than powerful – and show excellent integration and gentle extraction, so the wines are balanced and harmonious. Probably not as long-living but delightful wine to drink in the medium term.

It is remarkable for one winery to produce so many exceptional wines. They are indeed super stars. And when compare to top-flight Bordeaux and Rhône, these are amazing bargains.



Elspeth Cabernet Merlot 2010

Hawke's Bay

95

5 Stars

A youthful wine yet shows impressive complexity and harmony on the nose, displaying cassis, dark plum, dried herb and cedary oak aromas. The palate is full, weighty and textured with outstanding fruit concentration, beautifully framed by fine, chalky tannins. This is a top-flight Bordeaux-style red showing glorious flavours and superb structure. From their Mere Road Vineyard in the Gimblett Gravels district. At its best: 2015 to 2024. Oct 2013.

Elspeth Cabernet Merlot 2011

Hawke's Bay

94

5 Stars

It's immediately appealing on the nose displaying dark plum, blueberry, floral and cedary oak aromas, followed by a succulent palate that's silky and rounded. It's fine, long and very attractive. A wine that combines elegance and power so beautifully. At its best: now to 2022. Oct 2013.



Elspeth Cabernet Sauvignon 2010Hawke's Bay **95** **5 Stars**

The wine has an awesome presence, as great cabernet should. The complex bouquet shows classic cabernet aromas - cassis, cigar, floral - beautifully enhanced by spicy, cedary oak. It's concentrated and silky on the palate displaying wonderful richness and density, leading to a superbly long, pleasingly dry finish. To make a single varietal cabernet this good is very impressive indeed. At its best: 2015 to 2024. Oct 2013.

Elspeth Cabernet Sauvignon 2011Hawke's Bay **92** **4.5 Stars**

This is a lovely expression of the variety, displaying classic aromas of cassis, dark plum, dried herb together with elegant cedary oak notes. The palate is medium-full and rounded with excellent mid palate weight, beautifully supported by fine, chalky tannins. Stylish and refined, this promises to develop gracefully. At its best: 2015 to 2022. Oct 2013.



Elspeth Syrah 2011

Hawke's Bay, 94 pts (5 stars)

Stylish, engaging and perfumed, the bouquet shows dark plum, blueberry, spice and vanillin oak aromas, leading to a succulent palate that's supple and fleshy. It's silky, long and immensely appealing. Grapes were sourced from their Mere Road Vineyard (91%) and Trust Block Vineyard (9%). A wine offering plenty of charm now, and should evolve graciously.

At its best: now to 2020.



Elspeth Trust Vineyard Syrah 2011

Hawke's Bay, 93 pts (5 stars)

It's fragrant on the nose and velvety on the palate, exhibiting red/black plum, blueberry, floral and spicy oak characters with a hint of dark chocolate note. It's silky and sumptuous with excellent fruit richness, backed by fine, polished tannins.

At its best: now to 2020.



Reserve Chardonnay 2012Hawke's Bay **90** **4.5 Stars**

This label has a strong following among chardonnay fans who love rich flavours. Indeed, this is a full-bodied chardonnay offering plenty of ripe stone fruit, citrus and vanillin oak characters with silky texture, beautifully framed by integrated acidity. At its best: now to 2016. Oct 2013.

Reserve Cabernet Merlot 2011Hawke's Bay **90** **4.5 Stars**

A lovely expression. The perfumed bouquet shows blackberry, plum, floral and spicy oak aromas, which lead to a succulent palate that's finely textured and rounded, beautifully supported by polished tannins. Both varieties are well integrated, making the palate seamless and immediately appealing. At its best: now to 2018. Oct 2013.

Reserve Cabernet Merlot 2012Hawke's Bay **84** **3.5 Stars**

It's nicely fruited on the nose displaying red plum, blueberry, floral and subtle nutty aromas. The palate is juicy and bright with a rounded mouthfeel, leading to a pleasing dry finish. Very approachable and friendly. At its best: now to 2016. Oct 2013.

Reserve Merlot 2012

Hawke's Bay

87**4 Stars**

This is supple, smooth and very friendly, displaying dark plum, blueberry, floral and elegant spicy oak aromas on the nose, followed by a juicy palate that's nicely weighted and textured. No hard edges, the wine flows beautifully to a silky, attractive finish. At its best: now to 2018. Oct 2013.

Reserve Merlot Malbec 2012

Hawke's Bay

88**4 Stars**

The wine shows lovely fragrance - red/black plum, cherry, floral, cedar and a hint of dill. It's beautifully fruited on the palate displaying lovely mid palate weight and fine texture, leading to an elegant dry finish. A lovely medium-full-bodied red showing excellent harmony and balance. At its best: now to 2018. Oct 2013.

Reserve Syrah 2012

Hawke's Bay

84**3.5 Stars**

A gentle rendition of the variety showing lifted aromas of red plum, raspberry, floral and subtle spice. It's juicy and rounded on the palate with appealing fruit flavours, finishing elegantly dry. The wine shows youthful pristine characters, making it a delightful wine to sip in the medium term. At its best: now to 2017. Oct 2013.



The winemaking team at Mills Reef