

# MAISON NOIRE

## Cabernet Sauvignon 2018

### Tasting notes

#### Winemaking:

The Cabernet Sauvignon grapes, sourced from a single vineyard and 2 different clones on Gimblett Road, were machine picked in great condition in mid-April 2018. A very traditional and minimalist way of extraction was used during ferment, with a short cold maceration and plunges until dry in a stainless steel open tank. It was pressed in seasoned puncheons, allowing a soft micro-oxygenation but without adding new oak flavours. It was aged for 16 months prior to be lightly fined, filtered and bottled in December 2019.

#### Result:

Made in a typical Medoc style, this is an elegant yet rustic Hawkes Bay Cabernet Sauvignon, displaying varietal characters and strong integrated natural tannins. Greetings of blackcurrants and fresh red berries with herbaceous and dried herbs notes, followed by a combination of dark olives, sundried tomatoes, toffee and cocoa beans. The tannins are smooth, and the finish lingering.

Will cellar well until 2025, great to match with beef and venison dishes.

#### Analysis at bottling:

pH=3.80

TA=6.68 g/l

Alc=11.98% Vol.

RS=0.05 g/l

### Vintage conditions

**2017/2018:** A fairly normal winter regarding temperature and rainfall was followed by a very warm and dry September, that pushed growth very rapidly in early spring, dotted with the odd frost. It was followed by wet patches in October, then very dry until Christmas time. This pattern was perfect for growth but led to a very high pressure for Powdery Mildew. Canopy work, thinning and a strong spraying program were key to ensure good quality at maturity. This was helped by a rather dry and sunny summer, but followed by a few heavy downpours around harvest time (early March and late April), so picking planning was paramount to pick at optimum quality.

### Reviews (extract)

- **Yvonne Lorkin (4 stars):** "His style is still typically super-elegant and smooth (and that's just his hairstyle and dress sense) yet the wine has a deliciously rustic edge to it. A plummy kick and a cherry and pepper plumpness (...) Nicely balanced, velvet-textured and softly-styled, it slips down very sexily indeed."
- **Sam Kim - Wine Orbit (4 stars):** "Nicely fruited and elegantly styled, the wine shows dark plum, cherry, dried herb, almond and floral notes on the nose. It's juicy and supple on the palate with fine texture and chalky tannins, leading to a lengthy, delicately dry finish."