



Wine: Thomas 2019 Syrah

Region: Waiheke Island

Varietal/s: 100% Syrah, clones; 174 (53%), Chave (35%) and Grippart B (12%)

Production: 1200 bottles

Closure: Screwcap

Alcohol: 13%

Cellar door: \$55

Online sales: www.batchwinery.com

Fruit growing: Spring came early, conditions were warm and wet, the canopies grew quickly, flowering began weeks early. Conditions over fruit set were ideal, resulting in plenty of bunches on the vines. Summer was hot and dry with some of the highest temperatures on record. Cyclones and heavy rain arrived late February and early March. Harvest began early March; the fruit was picked in excellent condition.

Winemaking: Hand-picked on the 27th of March, the fruit was sorted and de-stemmed to a single fermenter, twenty percent of the fruit was added whole-bunch. Cold soaked for five days then fermented with minimal plunging or stirring. A post-fermentation maceration of ten days helped improve the texture and structure of the wine. The young wine was transferred to French oak barrels for eleven months, of which a quarter were new barrels. Estate bottled without fining and a light filtration.

Tasting note: Purple edge with a deep crimson centre. Raspberry, black cherry, liquorice, violets, oriental spice, and savoury earth. Elastic tannins add a juicy supple smoothness to the palate. Enjoy drinking now, decanting recommended, will benefit from careful cellaring for five to eight years.

93 Points Sam Kim