



## 2017 Elephant Hill Reserve Merlot Cabernet Franc

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Established in 2003, Elephant Hill is located within a stone's throw of the Pacific Ocean on the idyllic Te Awanga coast of Hawke's Bay on New Zealand's North Island.

The winemaking at Elephant Hill is driven by tradition while not losing sight of what innovation can bring to the blend. Our aim is to make wines that are balanced, elegant and a true expression of the vineyards they come from.

### Vintage Overview

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2017 was a challenging year for the whole of the Hawke's Bay wine industry. At Elephant Hill however we believe in maximising our input to achieve the best we can in any one season. With a 'no-holds-barred' approach we believe we can still produce superior quality wines which typify the season, all be it at much lower volumes.

### Winemaking

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This Hawke's Bay Reserve blend is crafted from Merlot (52%), Cabernet Franc (25%), Cabernet Sauvignon (17%) and Malbec (6%). 35% New French oak and 12 months on lees. This wine was not fined prior to bottling on 16th March 2018.

## Tasting Note

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Still a youthful wine with aromas of warm spices and dark juicy fruits. This wine exudes elegance on the palate with an abundance of blackberries, dark fruit flavours wrapped up in notes of chocolate, capsicum and violet petals.

### Review

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"Very attractive blue fruit and fleshy blueberries, as well as a deep-set, rich vein of earth and spice. The palate is beautifully smooth, very lush and seamlessly long. Velvety, blue-fruit finish." - James Suckling 94 points

## Technical Data

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### Vineyard

75% Gimblett Gravels  
25% Bridge Pa Triangle

### Wine

Alcohol Content: 13.5%  
Residual Sugar: <1 g/L



**Elephant Hill**  
HAWKE'S BAY NEW ZEALAND

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