



# SINGLE VINEYARD REDSTONE

## CHURCH ROAD 1 MERLOT 2021

### WINEMAKERS

*Chris Scott, Craig Thomas*

### VITICULTURISTS

*Graham Bartleet, Claire Pinker*

*“Terroir is a French word with no direct English translation. It can be described as the flavour of the place. The same grape variety grown in different sites, even in the same region, will demonstrate a unique character related to those individual sites. Differences in soil, slope, altitude, and shelter can subtly or dramatically alter the resulting wine, even over distances of a few metres. The very best sites growing well suited varieties, will produce wines that stand out amongst their peers. Wines of recognisable personality, presence, and above all, quality. Church Road 1 is a range of single vineyard wines that showcase the terroir of our best vineyards.”*

**Chris Scott, Chief Winemaker**

### VINEYARD

#### Redstone Vineyard:

Situated in the Bridge Pa Triangle Winegrowing District, Redstone is approximately 40 M above sea level, far enough inland to be sheltered from the sea breeze and in the lee of Roy's Hill which protects the site from cold air draining out of the mountains to the west. This makes Redstone one of the warmest vineyards in Hawke's Bay, perfect for the cultivation of later ripening varieties. The soils here are known as red metals, formed by a 10,000 year old, free draining, alluvial greywacke gravel riverbed since covered by a shallow layer of wind-blown loess and iron rich volcanic ash that is responsible for the distinctive rust coloured staining of the stones. This site typically produces ripe, supple and very aromatic Merlot with an amalgam of red and black fruit, lifted floral fragrance and an underlying iron-like minerality.

### VITICULTURE

2021 was another exceptional year in Hawke's Bay, with warm, dry, settled weather over most of the season. A significant sustained drought period lasted from mid-summer through until well after harvest was completed, allowing for all fruit to be harvested in optimum condition. A little cooler than 2020, the vintage is characterised by exuberant aromatics and excellent structure, which should see some very long-lived wines.

The vines were trained to 2 cane VSP and we employed extensive shoot and fruit thinning, along with bunch positioning, de-clumping, close canopy trimming and 100% removal of leaf through the fruit zone, to ensure a balanced, evenly spaced and well exposed crop. Soil moisture was monitored regularly to regulate a deficit drip irrigation programme. This kept the vines in a functioning yet low vigour state that promoted both ripening and concentration. Approaching harvest time, we visited the blocks every 2 or 3 days, tasting, evaluating flavour and ripeness and checking for condition to ensure we picked at the ideal moment; our aim was to achieve a balance between density, power, freshness and precision in the resulting wines.

Clones: 481

### WINEMAKING

The block was selectively harvested across a sorting table to remove any green material before being crushed to fermenters. Fermentation was allowed to peak at 34 deg C ensuring good extraction of colour and ripe tannin. The wines were allowed to undergo post fermentation maceration for a total time on skins of 16 days. During this time regular aeration was employed to stabilise colour, integrate the tannin and open up aromatics, accentuating ripe fruit, and floral notes. We tasted daily to determine the amount of aeration and to determine the optimum time to drain and press. The wine was then filled to 228 L French oak barriques (44% new) to complete malolactic fermentation and subsequent maturation for 19 months. The first 8 months were on lees to help build texture, while the final 11 months were off lees to aid the evolution of the wine. The wine was racked once more for clarity and, to avoid any unnecessary stripping effect, was bottled without any subsequent fining or filtration.

### WINE

This is a fragrant, complex Merlot with a core of brooding, dark plum overlaid with brighter berry fruit and lifted fragrance of lavender, cedar, rose and thyme. Undertones of warm earth, cacao, graphite and iron bring depth and interest to the wine. A full, supple mid-palate leads into a long, elegant finish with firm but fine-grained tannins driving great length and presence. With careful cellaring, we expect this wine will age gracefully for 15 years or more.

Alc 14.5% v/v | TA 5.35g/L | pH 3.65 | RS 2.0g/L