

STONECROFT



Gimblett Gravels Ruhanui Merlot/ Cabernet Sauvignon 2023

This is our blended red wine. Originally, this wine was the first to be made with fruit blended from the Mere Road and Roy's Hill vineyards. Before 1876, the Ngaruroro River took a bend around Roy's Hill through what is now our Roy's Hill Vineyard. In 1876 the Ngaruroro flooded and broke through an old channel called the Ruhanui, forming the present river. Our Mere Road vineyard is on the river terrace of the present Ngaruroro, so the name *Ruhanui* was seen as link between the two vineyards.

Vintage: 2023 was a vintage unlike no other we have experienced. At the start of the season, we were not affected by frosts and flowering was good. The weather was relatively cool for most of the season with more rain than usual and considerable disease pressure. We were then hit by Cyclone Gabrielle and thought the vintage could be a write off. Luckily, after the Cyclone the weather changed completely and the warm end to the summer through to early autumn meant we were able to leave fruit on the vines and take advantage of the sunny weather. We were pleased with the end result.

Wine:

Colour: A medium ruby red colour.

Aromatics: The wine has a combination of red and black fruit notes (plum, redcurrant and blackcurrant).

Palate: This year our Ruhanui has lush red and black fruit flavours including plum, blackberry and blackcurrant. The tannins are soft and smooth and the wine has a long finish with hints of sweet spice. **Suitable for vegans.**



Technical Info:

Region:	Gimblett Gravels Wine Growing District®, Hawke's Bay.
Vineyard:	Roy's Hill and Mere Road.
Variety:	52% Merlot and 48% Cabernet Sauvignon
Harvest:	Hand harvested 6 th April 2023 (Merlot) and 16 th April 2023 (Cabernet Sauvignon).
Vinification:	Fermented in open-top stainless steel fermenters. Hand plunged two times daily. Post fermentation soak for two to three weeks followed by maturation in barrel.
Maturation:	Matured in seasoned French oak barrels for 10 months.
Bottled:	14 th March 2024.
Analysis:	Alc 12.5 % vol.
Closure:	Screwcap
Production:	cases.
Cellaring Potential:	7-10 years.



