



# HANS HERZOG



# HANS

FAMILY ESTATE



His name is on the bottle.  
His story is in it.

## Merlot

Established in 1994, Herzog, an artisan family winery is acclaimed throughout the world for growing handcrafted wines exclusively from their exceptional 'Grand Cru' organic vineyard. Its unique diverse terroir allows Hans to indulge his passion for many exciting grape varieties. His 'hands on' approach, immense vineyard work and almost uneconomically low yields set the bar for his outstanding range of stunning wines rich in varietal character. His winemaking is purely natural, nothing is added or extracted, letting the exceptional wines speak for themselves.

### VINTAGE 2019

Another stunning growing season, confirming Marlborough as one of the worlds best wine region, perfect for our Merlot. We handpicked luscious grapes with incredible purity at full physiological ripeness during a wonderful 'Indian' summer.

### HANS' COMMENT

All Merlot is normally part of our Bordeaux blend 'The Spirit of Marlborough' but the 2019 had a special magic to it and I put two barrels aside. The immensely flavourful fruit destemmed, I left 60% as whole berries, allowing a long cold soak for a slow, soft extraction of colour and flavours from the grape skins. The must went through a natural wild fermentation for a true expression of the grape variety and its terroir, unspoiled by added yeast or any other additions. The must was left 21 days on the skins before being gently pressed and transferred into two new 225 litre French barriques for the natural malolactic fermentation. The young Merlot matured for 24 months in the same barrel, making it a contender for a great life ahead. After a further 18 months of bottle ageing, it is now drinking perfectly. Unfined (vegan) and unfiltered to retain the great flavours. Natural perfection.

### TASTING NOTES

Whilst Bordeaux is the spiritual home of Merlot and the Right Bank regions of Saint-Émilion and Pomerol iconic benchmark expressions of the variety, this left bank expression grown on similar soils is a serious contender, destined for long-term aging. Bursting with flavours of dark fruit, brimming in plums with spicy chocolate, coffee and violet. Impressively structured, powered by highly refined tannins as much as by great fruit with a juicy acidity. Polished aristocracy from the duke, bringing the old and new world together. Elegantly balanced, savoury and very moreish.

### TECHNICAL DATA

Variety	100% Merlot
Rootstock	RipariaGloire (known for very low vigour)
Planted	1996
Soil	Shallow (<45 cm). Well drained stony, gravelly and sandy soil. Developed from stony alluvium.
Plant density	5,500
Yield	2t/ha
Alcohol	14%.
Residual Sugar	<1 g/l
Ageing Potential	10+
Bottles Produced	544

### FOOD MATCHING SUGGESTIONS

Merlot and lean meats are an excellent combination. Hans would match it to a juicy South Island rack of lamb. Heaven...

Proudly included in Michel Bettane's International wine bestseller  
"THE WORLD'S GREATEST WINES"

Connect with us | on Facebook [@hansherzogestate](#) | Instagram [@hans\\_herzogwine](#) | YouTube [Hans Herzog Estate](#)

| Twitter [@hans\\_herzogwine](#) | LinkedIn [Hans Herzog Estate](#) | Spotify [Herzog's Wine Mood Playlists](#) |



HANS HERZOG ESTATE | MARLBOROUGH | NEW ZEALAND | [INFO@HERZOG.CO.NZ](mailto:INFO@HERZOG.CO.NZ) | [WWW.HERZOG.CO.NZ](http://WWW.HERZOG.CO.NZ)