



GRAVEL PIT RED
HAWKES BAY
MERLOT MALBEC

2009 Highlights

Silver Medal

Decanter World Wine Awards 2011

17½ Points, 4 Stars

“This has a dark, deep, purple hued ruby-red colour, youthful and vibrant in appearance. The bouquet is full, with intense, ripe, dark plum and boysenberry fruit aromas, lifted with black fruit jam and spices. Medium-weighted, the plum and boysenberry flavours are up-front and accessible and backed by supple, but tight tannins.”

Raymond Chan – April 2011

91 Points, 4½ Stars

“It's youthful yet complex and harmonious on the nose displaying cassis, dark plum, cedar and dried herb characters. The palate is medium-full and beautifully textured with a fleshy mouthfeel and lovely chalky tannins. A Merlot Malbec blend that's beautifully styled and delicious, and great value for money.”

Sam Kim – Wine Orbit – May 2011

2008 Highlights

Gold Medal, Red Blend – Merlot Dominant Trophy, Export Wine of the Show Trophy

“The 2008 Wild Rock Gravel Pit Red is great example of a fleshy, riper style currently coming out of Hawkes Bay, which is fashioned and rewarded with the all of the necessary quality hallmarks such as balance, intensity, length...the constituent parts of great wine.”

Hawkes Bay Mercedes-Benz Wine Awards 2010

5 Stars, #2 Top 5, #2 Best Buy

“From the famous Gimblett Gravels district, this intense red suits and old-fashioned Kiwi roast lamb perfectly, with its attractively pungent aromas of blackcurrant, cinnamon, vanilla and dark plum, ahead of a multi-layered mid-palate of pure fruit enhanced by taut tannins and a long finish.”

Cuisine NZ Merlot tasting panel – September 2010

Gold Medal and Champion Merlot/Merlot Dominant Blend Trophy

“Vividly coloured, oozing class and finesse, it's smooth and velvety with beautifully seasoned oak, fruitcake spices, a touch of chocolate and succulent fruit.”

New Zealand International Wine Show 2009

4 Stars

“If it’s true the best things come in small packages then here’s a must-by red for winter. It’s not the bottle nor the taste that’s ‘small’ in this gutsy, full-bodied red wine – it’s the price tag. Talk about over-delivering on taste and structure. The staunch backbone of this wine comes from its impressive tannins (thanks mostly to the malbec) which makes it an extremely winter-food-friendly red. The successful coupling of merlot and malbec makes this red a stunner for a wine list either by the glass or, as savvy restaurateurs will know, by the bottle; here’s a wine to recommend with any slow-braised beef or lamb dish, with a juicy steak and even with a hearty pizza. Vegetarians be warned: this is probably one of the carnivores.”

Joelle Thomson – DrinksBiz – June 2010

4 Stars

“Top buy. Dark, Mouthfilling and concentrated, a youthful Hawke’s Bay red with brambly, spicy flavours, a gentle seasoning of French oak and impressive density.”

Michael Cooper - Winestate Recent Releases – March/April 2010

“An easy-to-drink mouthful of mostly merlot with malbec that offers great value for money.”

Warren Barton – The Southland Times – February 2010

2007 Highlights

Gold Medal

AWC Vienna International Wine Challenge 2009

Champion Merlot Predominant Blend Trophy, Gold Medal and Best Value Medal

“Crimson in the glass with an attractive nose of spice, ripe black fruits and toasted oak. Concentrated blackberries with a hint of cedar, lovely complex and rewarding wine.”

Liquorland Top 100 International Wine Show 2009

90 Points, 4½ Stars

“This is even better than their excellent 2006 vintage. A blend of Merlot and Malbec exhibiting medium-deep red/purple colour, lifted aromas of dark plum, spice, cigar and subtle cedary oak characters. The palate is juicy and full with excellent mid palate weight, refreshing acidity and fine-grained tannins. A rich and textured wine with lovely balance and structure. Great value. At its best: Now to 2012.”

Sam Kim – Wine Orbit Issue 9 – October 2009

87 Points

“The 2007 Gravel Pit Red is one of the best wines from the Wild Rock range. A Merlot/Malbec blend, it has a very crisp, clean nose of cassis, raspberry and blueberry complemented by dried leaves and a touch of bay leaf. Well balanced on the palate, sinewy like a Malbec should be with crisp acidity livening up the finish. Very fine. Drink now.”

Neal Martin – Robert Parker’s The Wine Advocate – Issue 184, 2009

2006 Highlights

Gold Medal

Royal Easter Show Wine Awards 2008

Gold Medal
Royal Easter Show Wine Awards 2008

Gold Medal
Hawkes Bay A&P Mercedes Benz Wine Awards 2007

4 Stars

“A superior Hawke’s Bay quaffer, highly expressive and enjoyable now. Deeply coloured and mouthfilling, with a fragrant, sweetly oaked bouquet and ripe berry, plum and spice flavours, smooth and rich.”

Michael Cooper’s - Best of 2008 Releases - Winestate – 2009 Annual Edition

89 Points, 4½ Stars

“A blend of Merlot and Malbec, this well-priced red shows a medium red colour and dark plum, blueberry and cigar box characters on the nose. It’s gently fragrant and starting to display bottle-maturing complexity. The palate is rounded, exhibiting a well weighted mid range, nicely balanced acidity and fine tannins providing gentle grip at the end. A beautifully proportioned Bordeaux-style red. At its best: now to 2010.”

Sam Kim - Wine Orbit – July 2009

2005 Highlights

Gold Medal
Hawkes Bay A&P Mercedes Benz Wine Awards 2007

4 Stars, Best Buy
Cuisine – January 2007

4 Stars

“Gutsy, ‘full-on’ Hawke’s Bay red with bold colour and dense, plummy, moderately complex flavours. A top quaffer.”

Michael Cooper – Winestate New Releases – Mar/April 2007

Best Buy

“Inky-red, its dense, fairly intense flavours suggest plum, cassis, licorice, spice and oak. It has a firm structure of ripe tannins and is accessible now but has good cellaring prospects.”

Bob Campbell, Gourmet Traveller Wine October/November 2007
