



96 points-Bob Campbell  
★★★★★ 19.0+/20  
Raymond Chan Wine Reviews

## 2015 Elephant Hill Stone Syrah

*The 'Earth, Sea and Stone' wines are designed to reveal the purest characters of our three sub-region vineyards as well as showing individual varietal expression.*

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### STONE - Gimblett Gravels

Stone represents stability and structure. The story of Gimblett Gravels began about 5 million years ago, and continuing to the present day, plate tectonic movement along the backbone of New Zealand caused uplift of the greywacke rock, to form mountains. The elevation of the rock exposed it to climatic influences such as wetting and drying, heating and cooling. These, together with the force of gravity, caused the rock to break off into jagged or angular fragments and fall into screes and streams. The river has changed its course several times in its history, the latest change occurring in 1867 when it changed from the Omahu channel to the present one.

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### VINTAGE

The vines from which our 'Stone' Syrah is produced, are grown at our inland Gimblett vineyard. This area, located on the course of an old river bed, has a number of positive effects on vine growth. The warming effect of the old river stones that litter the surface of the 'soil' absorb and retain the sun's heat during the day, resulting in warmer vine roots during cold weather. Also, excessive rainfall during the season rapidly drains away, which leads to naturally reduced canopy growth. Finally, the vines are made to struggle during the hot summer months; encouraging flavour to be concentrated into a naturally reduced number of bunches.

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### WINEMAKING NOTES

All the grapes were hand-sorted. Small ferments ranging from 1 to 5 tonnes combining traditional open top oak cives and stainless open top fermenters included 10% whole bunches. The ferments were hand plunged and the wine was then aged for 26 months in 30% new French oak.

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### TECHNICAL INFO

Alcohol: 13.9%  
RS: <1 g/L  
TA: 5.4 g/L  
Dry Extract: 30.5 g/L

