



Global Syrah Master 2019- Silver
Andrew Caillard, 95 point
Rebecca Gibb MW 90 points
Jancis Robinson, 16.5 points
Huon Hooke, 93 points

Elephant Hill
HAWKE'S BAY NEW ZEALAND

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2017 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.

Elephant Hill is committed to crafting small volumes of world-class wines from its three unique vineyards in the Hawke's Bay.

VINTAGE

The 2016/17 growing season was marked by a sharp change of fortunes towards the end of summer by a sudden increase in rainfall throughout February, March and April and with it the onset of disease and crop losses. However, in such bad weather losses do still occur; therefore our hand-picking regime has to be incredibly thorough, ensuring only the best grapes are picked. The irony is that our Icon, Reserve and single vineyard blocks receive the most attention throughout the season and are cropped the lowest, so in a bad year they will often survive better than other blocks which are less of a priority.

WINEMAKING NOTES

2017 Stone Syrah is made with 99% of Syrah grapes with 1% of Viognier co-fermented into the blend. The ferments were gently hand plunged and the wine was then aged in French oak for 24 months with the remainder in old barrels and 3 months blended in stainless steel tank. No pressing went into the wine. It was bottled with minimal filtration and no fining.

This 'Stone' wine is an expression of Syrah from our vineyards sited at the heart of the Gimblett Gravels Wine Growing District. It is a wine grown from a 'young soil with an old soul'.

It is a wine that will keep improving and recommend to cellar up to 2031 with proper cellaring.

TECHNICAL INFO

Alc: 13.4 %

TA: 4.9 g/L

Dry Extract: 29.2 g/L

RS: <1 g/L

Harvest Dates: 27th March 2017

Production: 70 cases



REVIEWS

Andrew Caillard MW, 95 points

Medium deep crimson. Bloody, blackberry aromas with chalky pepper notes. Warm generous wine with rich meaty blackberry fruits, some jammy notes, fine looseknit but plentiful chocolaty/ gravelly tannins and integrated mineral notes. Some cedar notes at the finish. Very authentic and true to place.

Jancis Robinson, 16.5 points

Darker crimson than the top cuvée Airavata. Some sweetness and obvious ripeness here- arguably a little flattering, fatter and easier to appreciate than the Airavata.

Stephen Brook

There's fine depth of colour here, and the nose is ripe and lively, with stylish vanilla and blueberry aromas. It shows richness and intensity, with a silky texture. A touch of linear and lacking in depth, it nonetheless has no greenness and displays a lively balance. Quite long, with a light mocha tone on the finish.

Rebecca Gibb MW, 90 points

Vibrant purple with impressive concentration – you almost need a knife to cut through its rich, almost thick mass, which is quite a contrast to many other mid-weight Syrahs from this vintage. Well-handled, abundant tannins provide grip with plentiful oak-derived vanilla notes (aged in 40% new oak for 24 months) still prominent on the medium length, spicy finish. A polished style, with 1% Viognier in the blend.

Huon Hooke, 93 points

Deep, saturated purple/red colour. Deep-set back fruites, ripe, rich and concentrated, with a little smokiness, charcuterie notes. It has real density and gravitas. Impressive wine, deep and lasting on the finish. Soft but abundant tannins.