

Te MATA

ESTATE 1896

2022 AWATEA CABERNETS/MERLOT, HAWKE'S BAY



WINERY

Established in 1896, Te Mata Estate remains family owned, producing internationally recognized wines exclusively from its Hawke's Bay vineyards, located on New Zealand's North Island. Te Mata Estate is home to New Zealand's oldest vineyards and wine cellars with 130 years of continuous wine production. The Buck family were drawn to the estate in 1974, with a desire to produce Bordeaux- and Northern Rhone-inspired wines. Today, the family continues this pursuit, delivering internationally acclaimed, estate-grown wines of classical style, which represent the best qualities of their variety, vintage and vineyard.

WINE

First made in 1982, Awatea continues to represent the best of the classic Hawke's Bay Cabernet/Merlot blend. Awatea takes its name from the historic ship SS Awatea (a Maori word meaning "Eye of the Dawn") that sailed the Auckland – Sydney – Wellington route in the late 1930s. The Awatea was requisitioned as a troop transport in WWII and was sunk off Algeria in 1942. Exclusively from Te Mata estate vineyards in Havelock Hills and Gimblett Gravels.

VINEYARDS

The 2022 Awatea grapes were hand harvested from Te Mata Estate's Havelock Hills and Gimblett Gravels vineyards in March 2022. Havelock Hills features north-facing slopes with sandy loam soils and houses the

winery, including the historic 1892 vineyard. The area, which produces balanced and elegant wines, became New Zealand's first wine appellation in 1996 as the Te Mata Special Character Zone. The Gimblett Gravels sub-region, with its stony soils revealed by an 1860s flood, is now internationally renowned for complex red wines.

VINTAGE NOTES

A memorable, incredibly early vintage. A challenging harvest with two large rain events leading to some early picks from fragile crops. It resulted in wines with great expression, restraint, tension, power, and length. varietal

WINEMAKING

The separate parcels were destemmed before a traditional warm-plunged fermentation and extended maceration on skins. The resulting wines were then run to new and seasoned French oak barrels for 15 months. The separate wines were blended in July 2023, then returned to barrel for their second winter. The finished wine was then egg white fined and bottled in November 2023.

TASTING NOTES

The 2022 Awatea Cabernets/Merlot displays deep red color and blackberry, bay leaf, and currant aromas. The palate features red and dark fruits, floral notes, and hints of chocolate, olive, and cedar. Bright acidity and fine tannins provide structure, while showing excellent length and aging potential.

VINEYARD

Region:	New Zealand
Appellation:	Hawke's Bay
Soil:	Silty loam top soil with red gravel and iron deposits underneath; well draining
Eco-Practices:	Sustainable; Regenerative Farming Practices

WINEMAKING

Varietals:	42% cabernet sauvignon, 44% merlot and 14% cabernet franc
Barrel Aging:	15 months in a mixture of new and seasoned French oak barrels; 30% new

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Alcohol:	13.5%
Total Acidity:	5.4 g/L
pH:	3.63

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