

Trinity Hill, `Homage` Gimblett Gravels Syrah 2018

Gimblett Gravels, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand



PRODUCER

Since its inception in 1993, partners John Hancock, who has been making wine in New Zealand for over 35 years, and Robert and Robyn Wilson, owners of The Bleeding Heart and The Don in London, have made Trinity Hill a byword for quality and consistency. Winemaker Warren Gibson has been with Trinity Hill since 1997. He is also in charge of the 80 hectares of vineyard owned by Trinity Hill, of which 47 are in the Gimblett Gravels. The Gimblett Gravels, planted on the former bed of the Ngaruroro River, is now a highly sought after sub-region renowned for the quality of its wines. The Trinity Hill wines have an elegance, balance, drinkability and precision of flavour. This estate was one of the first to plant grapes on the Gimblett Gravels in 1993.

VINEYARDS

The fruit was sourced from three company owned vineyards in the Gimblett Gravels sub-region of Hawkes Bay. The soils consist of deep river shingle deposited over time by the Ngaruroro River as it changed course. The exposed greywacke gravel stones absorb and re-radiate heat and are extremely free draining. These are perfect conditions for growing Syrah. The vines are largely 20-year-old mass selection clones.

VINTAGE

The 2018 vintage saw a very warm spring in the Hawkes Bay and these above-average temperatures continued throughout the growing cycle to the start of summer. The weather became cooler and wetter as summer progressed and once autumn began, allowing the fruit to retain freshness during the ripening period.

VINIFICATION

The Syrah grapes were hand-harvested over a period of almost four weeks from the three individual sites, then de-stemmed and fermented as separate blocks. One parcel was fermented with 100% whole bunches and Viognier skins to enhance aromatics and structure. Each ferment was either hand-plunged or pumped over once daily during fermentation with a total time on skins ranging from 16 to 35 days. Majority of the parcels were aged in 228-litre French oak barriques for 12 to 15 months, of which 32% were new. One parcel was aged for eight months in a 5,400-litre French oak oval followed by a further six months in barriques. The individual wines were then blended and bottled.

TASTING NOTES

The 2018 Homage has an alluring bouquet of fresh raspberries, blackberries, sweet spice and black liquorice, with cedar and mineral undertones. The palate has superb definition and depth, displaying the purity and elegance for which 'Homage' is known. Fine tannins and vibrant acidity give texture and a long finish.

AWARDS

Decanter World Wine Awards 2021, Silver Medal

Grape Varieties	100% Syrah
Winemaker	Warren Gibson
Closure	Screwcap
ABV	13%
Acidity	6g/L
Wine pH	3.73
Bottle Sizes	75cl