



_____ This is where the story starts. In 1993 I arrived in Hawke's Bay with a love for making wine and everything I owned packed into the boot of a small car. The plan was to figure out where to plant the best small vineyards as the first step towards unlocking the full potential of Syrah grown and raised in Hawke's Bay. We're up to five so far.

I first visited the Northern Rhone, the spiritual home of great Syrah, in 1995 and was blown backwards by the richness of the wines and the stories they told, by the unlikeliness of the vineyard plantings and the investment both financial and human. By this international yardstick, we're only just beginning to explore what's possible here in Hawke's Bay. Syrah, more than any other red grape variety planted here, tells a story about where it was grown and who made it. I believe it will become the most important red grape variety in Hawke's Bay. It'll become our trademark.

2018 TRADEMARK SYRAH RM

From our Trademark Syrah vineyard, planted on a sloping limestone hillside overlooking the TukiTuki River. The vineyard was planted in 2012 and is predominantly planted in the original MS Clone, is dry-farmed and operated organically. Handpicked and around 85% was de-stemmed but not crushed into open top fermenters to where it was hand plunged until pressing 32 days later. The other 15% was loaded into open tops as whole bunches and fermented with stalks until it was pressed around 25 days after harvest. The wine was then run to French oak barrels for malolactic ferment and then 18 months rest in our cellars. Lightly egg-white fined before bottling.

TASTE

For all its ripeness, the wine has retained a vibrancy and great complexity on the nose. There's hints of violets, clove and spice. The palate is plush with typical blueberry, sweet tobacco, black cherry and subtle white pepper notes. Supple chalky tannins provide a structure that promise time in bottle will be rewarded.

Rod McDonald, Winemaker



Varietal: 100% Hawke's Bay gold

Alc/Vol: 13.5%

Standard drinks: 8.0

Allergens: Contains sulphites