



Reviews & Accolades

THE PATRIARCH 2007

CATHAY PACIFIC HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL WINE & SPIRIT COMPETITION

Hong Kong

Gold Medal - 96 Points

ROYAL EASTER SHOW WINE AWARDS 2010

Silver Medal

NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL WINE SHOW 2010

Silver Medal

MICHAEL COOPER'S BUYERS GUIDE TO NEW ZEALAND WINE 2010

Michael Cooper, 2010

5 Stars

The 2007 brings a return to form. Dense and youthful in colour, it is powerful, with very concentrated blackcurrant and spice flavours, hints of coffee and dark chocolate, firm tannins, and obvious potential."

WINESTATE

1 March 2010

5 Stars

Densely coloured, powerful and highly concentrated, this should be a 10-year wine - at least. A Hawke's Bay blend of cabernet sauvignon (49%), malbec (29%) and cabernet franc (22%), it is savoury and complex, with bold blackcurrant, spice, coffee and dark chocolate flavours, ripe, firm and long. Open 2012+.

HAWKE'S BAY TODAY

Yvonne Lorkin, June 2010

5 Stars

Named after Josip Babich, founder of Babich Wines in 1916, this offering is glossy, squid-ink black in colour and incredibly concentrated on the nose with black guava, smoky cedar and blackberry characters. It's a blend of cabernet sauvignon, malbec and cabernet franc that's dense and powerfully built and only made in years when the fruit is exemplary.

BOBSWINEREVIEWS.COM

Bob Campbell, 2010

5 Stars, 90 Points

A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec and Cabernet Franc from an excellent vintage. Cabernet's powerful cedar and blackberry flavours dominate against a background of plum and savoury oak. Serious red with an equally serious future.

CUISINE

1 September 2010

4.5 STARS - TOP 5 - NZ Cabernet and Blends

Named in honour of winery founder Josip Babich, this Cabernet Sauvignon Malbec Cabernet Franc is a powerful wine, worthy of the cellar. Cassis and mixed berry notes meet spice and mocha on the nose, and the palate is warm, rich and densely textured. Needs time to blossom fully. Serve with rump steak."

GEOFFKELLYWINEREVIEWS.CO.NZ

Geoff Kelly, August 2010

5 STARS, 18.5 POINTS

Ruby, carmine and velvet, not as dense as the top wines, but a lovely colour. Bouquet is floral with violets, again in the cassis and bottled black doris berry style, with fragrant and potentially cedary French oak adding complexity. Palate is intriguing, exceptional cassis, the floral quality extending right through beautiful gentle berry fruit, not as rich as some but elegant throughout. This is a real northern Medoc look-alike. It has been a long wait for Babich Patriarch to be cropped at a rate allowing the flavours of proper Bordeaux-like ripeness to be evident, and thus be truly a gold medal wine. This result is therefore very welcome, to someone who has monitored their cabernet sauvignons from the first release in the '70s.

WINE ORBIT

Sam Kim, August 2010

95 Points, 5 Stars

A blend of 49% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Malbec and 22% Cabernet Franc, this exquisitely fine red shows plenty of power as well as grace. The nose is opulent and fragrant displaying dark plum, cassis, cedar and subtle spice characters. It's concentrated and richly flavoured on the palate with velvety texture and plenty of ripe tannins. A superbly gratifying wine. At its best: now to 2020.

TIZ WINE.COM

Giles Hine, August 2010

4.5 Stars - Top Tip

Babich's top of the range Bordeaux Blend and deservedly so. Built to last it has black cassis aromas that are joined in the palate by spicy plums. The results is a powerful dense wine with grippy tannins and great length. The perfect Winter Warmer.

THE MERCURY

Graeme Phillips, Australia, September 2010

This is the company's flagship red wine. Crop levels are restricted, it is made only in exceptional vintages and the blending ratios vary according to the year. This one is 49:29:22 cabernet sauvignon, malbec, cabernet franc off the famed Gimblett Gravels area at Hawkes Bay. The grapes were hand-picked, fermented in open concrete vats and the wine given extended maceration on skins after fermentation before being matured in French oak barriques. Dense, deeply coloured with richly concentrated black fruits on the nose and a soft berry-and-vanilla-sweet palate, nicely balanced, supple and together and with soft, drying tannins suggesting mid-term cellaring potential. The winemaker says he wants to make the Babich wines approachable and pleasing, easy drinking without any heroics. He's done it here.

WINENZ

Spring 2010

Seems to have benefited from a liberal splash of Malbec. Ripe, rich and full bodied with really nice dark-fruit flavours in good depth and concentration. Then there are lashings of toasty oak, strapped together by firm, no-nonsense tannins. An assertive, full-bodied wine with pleasing complexity and a long dry finish."

GOURMET TRAVELLER

1 October 2010

5 Stars, 96 Points

A blend of cabernet sauvignon, malbec and cabernet franc, from an excellent vintage. Cabernet's cedar and blackberry flavours dominate against a background of plum and savoury oak.

GEOFFKELLYWINEREVIEWS.CO.NZ

Geoff Kelly, October 2010

5 Stars, 18/20 Points

This was the second of the complete wines in the Lincoln tasting. It opened beautifully, with even more harmony, delicacy and finesse than in the Hot Reds review. It is a marvellous example of a Medoc / Ch Cantemerle weight of classed Bordeaux, with remarkable fragrance and near-violets florality, all beautifully fine-grained. It is exciting to see Hawkes Bay blends developing exactly the same variation in demonstrated style as Bordeaux, where provided the basic quality parameters are observed, the variation is celebrated. With a straight malbec in the introductory lineup, you could see the zingy character it added to the Patriarch, but blind, one would be hard-put to identify that component. This is an elegant Hawke's Bay blend to cellar 5 – 15 years, perhaps longer. It is the greatest red wine ever to emerge from the Babich stable.

WINENZ

Jo Burzynska, December 2010

Flagship wines make particularly special presents, such as Babich's impressive blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec and Cabernet Franc from an excellent vintage. It's opulent and velvety textured, with layers of concentrated and juicy blackcurrant fruit seasoned with roasted spice.