



MAN O' WAR

IRONCLAD 2009

BLEND 34.4% Cabernet Franc, 31.4% Merlot, 22.4% Malbec, 7% Petit Verdot and 4.8% Cabernet Sauvignon

HARVEST DATE 1st - 28th April 2009

BRIX AT HARVEST 24.5 - 26

BARREL 25% new French, 75% old French

T.A 6.2

PH 3.71

ALC 14.5%

VINEYARDS Cabernet Franc: 20 tonner, Niko Face, Ponui, Benches Merlot: Anita Bay, Cliffs, 20 Tonner, Sharpies, Death Valley
Malbec: Owhiti, Top Swamp, Back Swamp
Petit Verdot: Machells, Big North
Cabernet Sauvignon: Big North, Reubans

CELLAR NOTES

All estate fruit is hand harvested and delivered to the winery in impeccable condition. However rigorous sorting also takes place with the fruit sorted twice, before and after destemming. Depending on the vineyard or variety the berries were then either crushed and /or must pumped to the vat where they underwent a pre ferment soak for 4 days. The traditional 5 varieties of Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Malbec, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Sauvignon made up fifty different batches for the Ironclad selection with many undergoing a wild fermentation while some were inoculated with selected yeast strains. Each batch was plunged by hand twice daily during fermentation with gentle pump over's during the cold soak and also for the extended time on skins (total cuvaison of 28 days is typical), prior to pressing and going to barrel. Uninoculated malolactic fermentation takes place in barrel before blending in the winter post harvest. The wine was held in tank for a further 5 months for bottling early 2011.

TASTING NOTES

Full of sweet ripe fruit with lifted aromas of crushed red berries and darker cassis, hints of floral perfume with tobacco and cedar. The palate is vibrant, exuding ripe fruit and a rich texture finishing with supple fine grained tannins. The 2009 Ironclad shows great fruit accessibility with a powerful structure coated in luxuriant fruit, supple yet powerful it is an engaging wine in its youth that will reward patient cellaring revealing a refined structure and greater complexity with age.

IRONCLAD

Ironclad is named in honour of the 19th Century warships characterised by the iron armour bolted onto their wooden hulls, much as iron courses through the veins of our warm clay hillside vineyards.

This wine is bottled and protected under screw cap as we believe it is the best closure for quality wine.



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