

THE MASTER'S NOSE CLUB

Te Mata Estate, Hawkes Bay – New Zealand's “First Growth”

NEW ZEALAND'S OLDEST
WINERY, SINCE 1896

100% FAMILY-OWNED
AND SUSTAINABLE

PRODUCE TOP QUALITY,
LONG-LIVED BORDEAUX-
STYLE BLENDS, SYRAH
AND CHARDONNAY

“IF THERE WAS KIWI WINE
ARISTOCRACY, TE MATA
WOULD BE IT!”

Real Wines 



Te MATA
ESTATE 1896

THE REGION

ABOUT HAWKES BAY WINE REGION

When most people think of New Zealand wines, they think primarily of Sauvignon Blanc, and then maybe of Pinot Noir – mostly produced from the Marlborough region in South Island. What many perhaps don't appreciate is that New Zealand also produces fantastic quality Chardonnay, Syrah, Cabernet and Merlot from the Hawkes Bay wine region.

Hawkes Bay is a beautiful region in the east of North Island, with some of the most glorious stretches of Pacific Ocean coastline in the world. It lies at the same latitude south as Valencia or Northern Sonoma in California are north – 39 degrees – so it is both sunny and warm. However there are constant light winds which blow from the west and cool temperatures down in the summer, giving the grapes an extremely long, gradual growing season which enables them to achieve impressive flavour intensity and balance.

Another important characteristic of this area is its very high level of ultra violet rays, due mainly to the purity of the atmosphere in pollution-free New Zealand. This helps intensify colour and flavour and thicken the red grape skins, giving the red wines serious structure and ageability.

The soils in Hawkes Bay are comprised of gravel, sand and silt, left behind as the 3 main rivers of Hawkes Bay changed course over thousands of years. These give perfect natural drainage to the vines, similar to the gravelly soils of Bordeaux's Medoc. At the heart of the region are the Havelock Hills Vineyards – the first legally-protected vineyards in New Zealand – renowned for producing wines with great balance, power and elegance. Te Mata's Awatea, Elston and Coleraine Vineyards are all here, as is the winery – so most grapes travel only tiny distances from vine to bottle.



THE PRODUCER

ABOUT TE MATA ESTATE



Te Mata is New Zealand's oldest winery, founded in 1896. It has been family owned ever since. It is widely considered as the country's one and only "first growth" and is most famous for producing a single vineyard Bordeaux blend called Coleraine. This is New Zealand's only acknowledged "fine wine", with an exceptional pedigree going back to its first vintage in 1982.

John Buck OBE purchased Te Mata in 1974 after several years of searching for the perfect vineyard site. The Te Mata vineyards at the time were rather neglected, but John was attracted by their wonderful history – these vineyards were originally planted back in 1892 – and great potential for producing top quality reds. It came with a small, run-down winery which over recent years has been fully renovated and rebuilt. The winery is now a beautiful, state of the art facility which is fully equipped to vinify and mature the Estate's great wines! The vineyards and winery are managed 100% sustainably – Te Mata was one of

the first producers in the country to be accredited by the Sustainable Winegrowing New Zealand Programme back in 1995.

The Buck family's ambition has been very clear since the start – for Te Mata's wines to be recognised as amongst the finest in the world. And so far they are achieving these goals very successfully! Over the last few years they have been variously described as "New Zealand's greatest winery" by Robert Parker's Wine Advocate, "a national treasure" by jancisrobinson.com and "New Zealand's First Growth" by the UK's Decanter Wine magazine.

But maybe New Zealand's much respected "Cuisine" wine magazine puts it best: "If there was Kiwi wine aristocracy, Te Mata would be it. Nestled in the foothills of the Te Mata heritage zone, they make some of the best wines in the country. Independent, family-owned, exclusively Hawke's Bay, and committed to making premium wine on site."

THE WINERY

THE TEAM

The winery is now run by John Buck's 3 sons – Nick (CEO), Jonathon (estate and vineyard manager) and Toby (sales and marketing manager). Winemaker Peter Cowley worked every vintage at Te Mata from 1984 until 2018 inclusive. In 2019 he handed over the reins to Phil Brodie, his deputy since 1992 and also a truly accomplished winemaker.

I have known Nick since he took over from his father in the late 1990s and he is a knowledgeable and clearly-focused character. When I asked him what inspired him to take over the family business, he simply said "Because the foundation that had been laid was so strong, and the potential to be realised still so great, that the opportunity and challenge were too compelling".



THE WINEMAKING

HOW THE WINES ARE MADE



Elston Chardonnay

Produced since 1984, Elston is grown on the estate's oldest vines on hill-sides overlooking the winery. The grapes are fully hand harvested from their separate, individual plots of vines, carefully sorted then fermented in a mix of new and seasoned French oak barrels. The wine then spends 10 months after fermentation resting on its lees in barrel to gain further complexity and depth.

Estate Vineyards Syrah and Bullnose Syrah

Syrah is possibly New Zealand's most under-appreciated – and undervalued – grape. Te Mata were to a large extent the pioneers in producing fine quality Syrah in New Zealand and their Bullnose Syrah is one of the country's top examples. Bullnose is grown on the second oldest Syrah vineyards in New Zealand, planted in 1989 and 1990, and its first vintage was 1992. The Estate Vineyards Syrah come from a mix of Te Mata's own vineyards.

The Syrah grapes for both wines are destemmed and given a traditional, warm-plunged fermentation. The resulting wines undergo extended maceration on skins before pressing and then a secondary malolactic fermentation. The separate wines are then matured in a mixture of new and seasoned French oak barriques for 8 months in the case of the Estate Syrah and 15 months for the Bullnose.

Awatea Cabernets Merlot

First made in 1982, Awatea is generally seen as the second wine to Te Mata's flagship Bordeaux blend, Coleraine. The grapes for this wine are hand harvested and destemmed before a traditional, warm-plunged fermentation with extended maceration on the skins to gain tannins, colour and structure. The resulting wines are then aged for 16 months in seasoned French oak barrels, blended, then returned to barrel for a further 8 months' oak maturation.

OUR EXQUISITE SELECTION



**Elston
Chardonnay
2019**
(two bottles)

This has enticing aromas of golden nectarines, passion fruit and grilled pineapple, with additional flavours of roasted cashew nuts and crème brûlée from its time spent in oak barrels. It has lively acidity and a long, mineral length. Complex, savoury, fresh and elegant, 2019 is no doubt one of the great vintages of Elston!

Serve with a pumpkin and leek risotto.

Drink 2022 – 2029.



**Estate
Vineyards
Syrah 2019**
(one bottle)

This Syrah has an inviting fragrance of raspberries, black cherries and plums. Rich ripe fruit jumps out on the palate; a black-forest banquet of boysenberry, turkish delight, lavender and nutmeg, with dark cocoa on the finish. Bright and modern in style, but fresh and very classy. Delicious and extremely drinkable!

Serve with Feijoada – a Brazilian bean stew.

Drink 2021 – 2025.



**Bullnose
Syrah 2018**
(one bottle)

“Bullnose” has hedonistic aromas of cinnamon, lavender, ultra-ripe raspberry and black cherry. Lush with plum and boysenberry, the palate has immense depth and is interwoven with spice and velvety chocolate tannins. This 2018 has purity combined with power, a sumptuous dark heart, and a long, structured, elegant finish.

Serve with Asian style beef short ribs.

Drink 2021 – 2029.



**Awatea
Cabernets
Merlot 2018**
(two bottles)

This blend of 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc is a great success from the dry and sunny 2018 vintage! Inky purple, it has a wide mix of ripe blackberry, blackcurrant and plum flavours with an attractive floral character. Notes of vanilla, cedar and sandalwood from its maturation in French oak barrels add complexity. It is classically structured, with fine balance and long length; beautifully pure and fresh and uniquely “New Zealand” in style.

Serve with Leg of lamb provençal.

Drink 2021 – 2027.

THE MASTER'S NOSE CLUB

NEW ZEALAND'S WINE REGIONS

