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17 March 2016

MEDIA RELEASE

Basket press wine of excellence wins rave reviews

Clearview Estate's Basket Press 2013 is a star from one of the greatest vintages experienced in Hawke's Bay, winning raves from not just leading New Zealand wine writers but also from the most voracious critics, other Hawke's Bay winemakers.

A Cabernet Sauvignon dominant Bordeaux-style blend, Basket Press is only produced from the very best grapes hand selected during an exceptional season. The latest Basket Press is only the seventh produced in 25 years and the first since 2009.

It has been launched by Clearview co-owner and head winemaker, Tim Turvey in Auckland to some of the country's most discerning wine consumers, VIP customers of The Fine Wine Company, over two nights at its two Auckland stores. (March 16 and 17.)

In pre-release tastings, Basket Press has already impressed. It totally cleaned up in a double blind tasting by 25 leading Hawke's Bay winemakers, with almost double the points of its nearest rival.

It has also been given top five star rating by Michael Cooper Master of Wine, and Cameron Douglas Master Sommelier, who enjoyed a personal tasting at Clearview during last year's FAWC! season. Bob Campbell, another Master of Wine, has also rated it highly.

For Tim Turvey and fellow Clearview winemaker, Matt Kirby, it is the pinnacle of their winemaking. "We develop a very intense relationship with the wine and can only afford to make it when it's a super year," says Mr Turvey.

Named by some as "the vintage of the century", 2013 also yielded Clearview Estate's Endeavour Chardonnay 2013, another wine that is only made in an exceptional vintage, and which is New Zealand's premium white wine. This was also shared with the VIPs at the two Auckland events.

For Basket Press, bunches of grapes are hand selected and fruit removed to achieve ultra-low cropping levels. The grapes are pressed in small quantities and Clearview uses a traditional basket press in a nod to the technique that is hundreds of years old, and hence the wine's moniker.



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The personal touch continues with regular hand plunging of the wine that is fermented in small vats before being transferred to “the best new French oak barrels we can afford” for between two and a half to three years, explains Mr Turvey.

Bottles are hand wrapped in hessian for sale. With less than 2000 bottles produced, the much loved wines are priced up with New Zealand’s most expensive and demand is strong.

Basket Press 2013 is a blend of 31.5 percent of Cabernet Sauvignon from Gimblett Gravels, with 31.5 percent of both Merlot and Cabernet Franc, and 5.5 percent of Malbec from Clearview’s Te Awanga vineyards.

Michael Cooper describes Basket Press as “deeply coloured, with dense, pure blackcurrant, plum and spice flavours that build to a lasting, finely poised finish. Weighty and highly concentrated, with a backbone of ripe, supple tannins, it has lapped up the new oak influence, creating a savoury, multi-faceted red. Already delicious, it should flourish for a decade - or longer.”

Cameron Douglas, in awarding the wine 97 points (out of 100), says it is “a complex and exciting wine to taste, well made and proving that the Bordeaux red blend has an enormous future in New Zealand.”

Master of Wine, Bob Campbell awarded 96 points describing Basket Press as a “flagship blend of all four classic Bordeaux varieties”.

Locally at a blind tasting held late last year at EIT by Geoff Wilson and Clive Holland, from BLEND, a local wine firm, 13 Bordeaux-blend style wines were tasted with no identifying aspects known at the time.

“Standalone, each wine in the line-up would be worthy of high praise,” says Mr Wilson.

“Clearview was the clear winner on the night.” It was a brilliant testament to the fact that wines with sufficient fruit intensity could handle such oak treatment and this added extra flavour and structure, he explained.

ENDS

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Established by Tim Turvey and Helma van den Berg in 1988, Clearview Estate Winery continues as a family owned and operated business. Clearview Estate produces iconic wines with pedigree, estate grown and hand crafted by people with passion since 1989.

In 1991, the rustic 'Red Shed' restaurant pioneered coastal vineyard dining, combining the cellar door and lunch restaurant, Mediterranean style, in a leafy vineyard setting.

Situated in Te Awanga, on the Cape Kidnappers coastline of Hawke's Bay, the Estate enjoys a unique microclimate, an extended growing season and refreshing sea breezes. An unwavering focus on quality produces wines of great fruit intensity, with a strong commitment to sustainability in all aspects of the business.