



TRINITY HILL

2010 Homage Syrah

Vineyards: Sourced from the company owned Gimblett Estate and Gimblett Stones vineyards, situated in the Gimblett Gravels sub-region of Hawkes Bay. Soils consist of deep river shingle deposited over time by the Ngaruroro River as it changed course. The exposed greywacke gravel stones absorb and re-radiate heat and are extremely free draining. These are perfect conditions for growing Syrah.

Variety: 100 % Syrah. Sourced largely from 15 year-old Mass Selection Heritage clone vines along with a small % of new clone material of appropriate vine age.

Harvest Detail: 100% hand-picked , 7th to 30th April

Finished Wine Analysis: 13.7 % alcohol **Bottled:** October 2011
6.2 g/l acidity
3.66 pH

Winemaking and Viticulture: 2010 was an exceptional quality vintage for Syrah in Hawkes Bay. An unusually long, cool summer followed by an extremely dry autumn meant the fruit was able to be harvested at perfect ripeness.

Special canopy management of the vines along with impeccable viticulture during the growing season ensured that the fruit quality was of the highest order. Pruning and shoot/bunch thinning at appropriate times gave a crop level of around 1 tonne per acre (approx. 18 Hectolitres per Hectare).

Hand-picked grapes were sorted, de-stemmed and lightly crushed to leave a large portion of complete berries. Fermentation took place in small stainless steel fermenters. The cap was hand-plunged and/or pumped over twice daily for optimum colour and tannin extraction. A short post-fermentation maceration helped with the complexity of tannins, softening and stabilising the wine.

The wine was subsequently aged in predominantly new French oak barriques for 15 months, with malo-lactic fermentation beginning in tank and finishing in barrel. The wine in barrel was not racked during this time. Some barrel stirring was carried out when appropriate.

The Wine: 2010 Homage could well prove to be the strongest wine of the past decade. Comparisons can be made with the stellar 2002 and 2006 Vintages. 2010 produced a wine that is very powerful and still elegant and fragrant. A very dense purple colour leads to elements of complex red fruits on the nose. Blackberry and cassis meld with secondary notes of licorice, black pepper and spice.

The wine shows great concentration and weight with a very crucial elegance. The structure is tight and tense which will allow the wine to age gracefully for many years (10+). Enjoy this wine with lamb or game.