

ROD McDONALD WINES

HAWKES BAY, NEW ZEALAND



Rod McDonald Wines is the passion of winemaker Rod McDonald and a family owned wine business. Everything Rod and his team does are based on their love for making wine and reflects the love for the place they call home - Hawke's Bay. With enduring energy and drive, they are seeking to make world class wines.

Rod McDonald Wines farm around 70 hectares of vineyards in the Hawke's Bay and Te Awanga Estate is home to its cellar door.

Trademark range: Rod McDonald passionately believes that Chardonnay and Syrah grown within the region will become the most important red and white varieties raised in Hawke's Bay. They'll become the "Hawke's Bay trademarks". With Trademark, Rod produces the best possible Chardonnay and Syrah he can. Only made in a good vintage, with fairly small quantities.

Te Awanga range: Te Awanga is a special place. Planted 25 years ago by a group of friends in one of Hawke's Bay's oldest wine growing areas. They dreamt of making the region's greatest wines. Today, Rod's team is still working on it but believe their vineyard by the coast truly captures something unique. Te Awanga Estate is a range of single estate wines that are rich, mouthfilling and long-lived.



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TE AWANGA CHARDONNAY 2014

From Hawke's Bay legendary winemaker Rod McDonald. The warm, coastal climate of Te Awanga, combined with ample sea breezes, creates Chardonnay like no other.

Varietal: Chardonnay

Winery:	Rod McDonald Wines	Wine region:	Hawke's Bay
Winemaker:	Rod McDonald	Alcohol:	13%
Wine style:	dry	Cellaring potential:	2020
Closure:	Screwcap		

Tasting Note

A classic, generous Hawke's Bay Chardonnay. Lemon and spicy clove aromas lead into a palate characterised by peach and toasted oak complexity.

Winemaking

A combination of machine and handpicked, gently pressed and run to new and used French oak barriques for a wild fermentation. The wine rested on lees for ten months where it underwent a full MLF in spring. It was gently stirred every couple of weeks for six months before it was blended, lightly fined and bottled in early 2015.

Reviews and accolades

Silber – The Global Chardonnay Masters 2016

Pure Bronze – Air New Zealand Wine Awards 2015



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TE AWANGA MERLOT CABERNET 2013

Masterfully made by Rod MacDonald from 25-year old vine fruit and off an outstanding vintage.



Varietal: 91% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc

Winery:	Rod McDonald Wines	Wine region:	Hawke's Bay
Winemaker:	Rod McDonald	Alcohol:	14%
Wine style:	dry	Cellaring potential:	2023
Closure:	Screwcap		

Tasting Note

Rich and crimson in colour the nose of this wine displays an aroma of currant, cassis and tobacco characters, while the palate is full, rich and soft with excellent balance and structure. A wine styled for approachability but that will benefit from some bottle age.

Winemaking

Fruit was destemmed and crushed to open and closed fermenters where the must was fermented hot to maximize extraction of tannin, colour and flavour. The fermenting juice was on skins for an average of just under four weeks. This allowed for the full build of tannin and mouth feel before the wine was pressed and run to barrel where it was aged for 18 months in new and used French oak.

Reviews and accolades

5 stars – Raymond Chan

4.5 stars – Michael Cooper

Pure Silver – Air New Zealand Wine Awards 2015



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TE AWANGA SYRAH 2013

Masterfully made by Rod MacDonald from an outstanding vintage.



Varietal: 91% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc

Winery:	Rod McDonald Wines	Wine region:	Hawke's Bay
Winemaker:	Rod McDonald	Alcohol:	13.4%
Wine style:	dry	Cellaring potential:	2023
Closure:	Screwcap		

Tasting Note

Violet, white pepper and thyme aromas lead into a palate that is full and rounded. Plum, cassis and bramble flavours give way to an attractive savoury character so often seen in good Syrah. The tannins are well balanced and provide structure for this attractive and mouthfilling wine.

Winemaking

Hand harvested fruit was destemmed but not crushed into closed fermenters where whole-berries soaked for up to seven days before a natural ferment kicked off. The wine was then pumped over up to three times a day at the height of ferment. Post ferment it was rested for three weeks on skin to advance and condense the tannin structure making the wine more approachable and supple. The wine was pressed and run to barrel where it was matured for 14 months in new and used French oak before it was blended and lightly egg white fined.

Reviews and accolades

4.5 stars – Michael Cooper

Bronze – Decanter World Wine Awards 2015

Best Buy – Cuisine Magazine Syrah Tasting 2015

9/10 – Liam Steevenson MW

„Illustrates perfectly why there is such appetite for Hawes Bay Syrah at the moment. Such purity of dark fruit notes on nose with that tell tail cracked black-pepper note. Silky on the palate but with tight acid and mineral backbone, and tight tannin structure, very reminiscent of top quality Crozes Hermitages.“



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TRADEMARK CHARDONNAY 2015

A stylishly rich and concentrated, complex Chardonnay. Rod truly believes that Chardonnay will become the trademark white wine of Hawke's Bay. With this wine, he attempts to produce his best Chardonnay possible.

Varietal: Chardonnay

Winery:	Rod McDonald Wines	Wine region:	Hawke's Bay
Winemaker:	Rod McDonald	Alcohol:	13.5%
Wine style:	dry	Cellaring potential:	2020
Closure:	cork		

Tasting Note

A wine made with future complexity at its heart. Struck stone and flint on the nose with lemon curd, stonefruit and a layered lees influence. Supple and seamless with a lingering finish.

Winemaking

Perfectly ripe fruit with a taut acidity and moderate brix carried a lusciously flavoured grape, lemon, melon, nectarine all there and intermingled. Planted on an old river terrace 35km's inland and grown carefully to extend hang time and allow a pedestrian ripening before harvesting by hand. Pressed and run to french oak barriques for a wild ferment and further rest through the cool winter temperatures. Allowed to warm in spring for a natural malo and then settled before bottling in March, 2016.

Reviews and accolades

Gold – The Global Chardonnay Masters 2016

19.5-/20 – Raymond Chan

9.5/10 – Liam Steevenson MW

„Incredible Chardonnay, that pushes the boundaries of what I thought New Zealand was capable of. Classic Mendoza clone notes on the nose, ripe yet tight mineral notes. Spice from the new French Oak lifts and complexes. There is a wild cooked-bread note, reminiscent of good Saint Aubin or perhaps Chassagne. The palate is rich and waxy in texture with incredible concentration. Not at all fat though, a green, mineral line keeps the wine in perfect balance. Hugely impressive effort.“

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TRADEMARK SYRAH 2011



Rod has spent his lifetime fascinated by Syrah, and is a driving force of this variety in Hawkes Bay. This Trademark Syrah is his first no-holds-barred attempt at making the very best Syrah possible. 200 cases made.

Varietal: Syrah

Winery:	Rod McDonald Wines	Wine region:	Hawke's Bay
Winemaker:	Rod McDonald	Alcohol:	14.5%
Wine style:	dry	Cellaring potential:	2023+
Closure:	cork		

Tasting Note

Very ripe fruit from an excellent Syrah vineyard planted over gravels. It shows admirable ripeness and depth of flavour, retaining vibrancy and great complexity on the nose and palate with typical violet, spice, black cherry and plum notes. I've yet to see this same level of ripeness or sturdiness outside the gravels, but this is where our Syrah story starts...Rod McDonald, Winemaker

Winemaking

Fruit from organically managed vines planted in 2004, in a single site on gravel soils, the wine fermented to 14.5% alc. and aged 2 years in 60% new oak.

Reviews and accolades

19.5/20 – Raymond Chan

9.5/10 – Liam Steevenson MW

„Rod has spent his lifetime fascinated by Syrah, and is a driving force of this variety in Hawkes Bay, so I tasted this wine with high expectations. Bigger on the nose than predicted. Intense black-forest fruit on the nose, with spice and leather notes. Smoked Bacon. The palate is dense, yet not all black fruit, there is a bright, red-berry note that lifts the wine on the palate. Chewy tannins suggest a wine that has 10 years plus before it is at its peak.“