



**CROSSROADS**  
HAWKE'S BAY, NEW ZEALAND

*Milestone Series*

## MILESTONE SERIES HAWKE'S BAY SYRAH 2012

For over 20 years, Crossroads has represented the very best of small parcel winemaking. The Crossroads Milestone Series celebrates our dedication from the vineyard to the winery – creating benchmark wines from New Zealand.

**Winemaking:** Miles Dinneen  
**Viticulture:** Bryon Strachan  
**Harvested:** 19-24 April 2013  
**Vineyard:** Gimblett Gravels: Elms, Mere Road, Southbank & Bridgeman vineyards

**Alc/vol:** 13%                      **RS:** <1.0g/l  
**pH:** 3.75                              **TA:** 5.95 g/l

### VITICULTURE

Our vineyards shape the essence of Crossroads Wines. This wine was crafted from grapes grown on our four vineyards in the Gimblett Gravels appellation. The soil here is very free draining and low in nutrients. As a result, the wines are low in vigour and naturally balanced, producing a moderate crop of ripe fruit. We further manage the crop on these low yielding vines, thinning to only one bunch per shoot soon after flowering. The 2012 Hawke's Bay vintage was a cooler than average vintage, creating excellent conditions for producing highly aromatic Syrah, yielding grapes with good phenolic ripeness and low acids at moderate sugar levels.

### WINEMAKER COMMENTS

We gently harvested the 2012 Syrah later than usual from the 19th to the 24th of April. Traditional warm fermentation followed peaking at 32C, using a mixture of hand plunging and pump-over. After primary fermentation the wine macerated on skins for optimum integration. The finished batches were pressed off, and run to tanks and older French barriques for malolactic fermentation and eight months of barrel maturation.

The result is a complex floral wine, with pepper, cherry, plum, blueberry and smoky aromas. The palate is supple and silky with bass notes of sweet fruit, fine tannins, and a long spicy finish.

### WINE AND FOOD

This wine is ideal to enjoy with grass fed New Zealand venison, beef and lamb.

