

Blackenbrook Family Reserve Montepulciano 2019

Powerful and rich, with ripe flavours of dark fruit and spice. Our Family Reserve Montepulciano 2019 is concentrated and complex – probably the most exciting Montepulciano we've produced to date!

The Montepulciano grape variety originates from Central Italy. Try it with an Italian antipasto platter or delicious New Zealand game.



Season overview: The weather gods were on our side, giving us an exceptional growing season.

With ample spring rain the vineyard was off to a strong start and quickly grew a vibrant green canopy, the powerhouse producing the energy for the developing fruit.

Grapevines are wind-pollinators and the dry and sunny December was perfect for a good, even fruit set. From January right into harvest a heat wave and drought gripped Nelson Tasman. Luckily our un-irrigated vines have extremely deep roots and managed to find sufficient water deep down in the gravelly clay soils. They thrived in the challenging conditions and gave us a beautiful crop with outstanding colour and flavours.

Harvest kicked off on 8 March, the earliest starting date at Blackenbrook's ever.

From **Sustainable Production**, accredited by **Sustainable Winegrowing New Zealand**



Viticulture: Montepulciano produces large, almost : grape berries of an amazing dark colour. With its tough skins it is well suited to an extended ripening period and is picked roughly three weeks after all our other varieties.

- 100% fruit from our **Home block**
- Moutere clay soil with a layer of sandy loam
- Close planting: 3780 vines/ha
- Hand-picked on 24 April 2019 with 23.5 Brix

Gentle winemaking: di-stemmed before fermentation on the skins, hand-plunged, moderate pressing, gravity-fed from press area to main winery, minimal pumping

- aged for 12 months in two and three year old French barrels in temperature controlled barrel room
- Bottled on 10 July 2020 in light-weight bottles to reduce our carbon footprint
- Screw capsules, 14.5% alcohol
- only **97 cases** produced

Gold or 95/100 Bob Campbell MW The Real Review

Intense, deep, youthful Montepulciano with dark berry, cassis, liquorice, spice and nutty oak flavours. Very impressive vibrant wine with a backbone of ripe tannins and juicy acidity. Great now but should develop well with bottle age. 4 Sept 2020

4 1/2 Stars Michael Cooper, michaelcooperwines.com