

Blackenbrook Montepulciano 2021

This Montepulciano is packed with ripe berries, cocoa and wood-smoke rounded off by fine tannins and a long, tactile finish - a wine of great character and class.

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



Season Overview: Mother Nature threw some hefty challenges at us with unsettled weather and gale-force wind in spring followed by a hail storm on Boxing Day.

The humid and cold conditions in December made pollination difficult, resulting in small bunches with far less berries than usual. Luckily we dodged the worst of the hail storm in December and only the Pinot Noir suffered some damage.

In January the weather finally turned and the sun kept smiling down on us right into harvest. On 15 March we started picking beautifully healthy grapes of outstanding fruit concentration. Just smaller than wished for volumes...

Sustainable Production,
Sustainable Winegrowing New Zealand



Vineyard: Montepulciano produces large, almost seedless 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.

Fruit exclusively from our home block
Moutere clay with a layer of sandy loam
Close planting: 3780 vines/ha
Extensive manual shoot thinning and
leaf plucking to keep canopy healthy and dry
Hand-harvested on 23 April 2021 with 22 Brix

Winery: di-stemmed before fermentation on the skins, hand-plunged, gentle pressing, gravity-fed from press area to main winery, minimal pumping, **no fining** pre-bottling
Aged for 12 months in two and three year old French barrels in temperature controlled barrel room.
Bottled under screw capsules on 22 July 2022
Light-weight bottles to reduce carbon footprint
13.5% alcohol, production **87 cases**

94/100 Cameron Douglas MS, camdouglasms.com
Aromas of dark berries and clay, toasty wood and moments of spice and mystery. On the palate lots of boysenberry and black cherry then firm tannins and backbone of acidity for palate feel and power. A lovely wine with an array of textures and flavours. Lengthy finish and well made.

4½ Stars Michael Cooper, michaelcooperwines.com