

Blackenbrook Family Reserve Montepulciano 2020

Almost black in colour, our Family Reserve Montepulciano 2020 is turning heads with its intense dark fruit, cocoa and spice flavours, the elegant complexity and the lasting, tactile finish.

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



Season Overview: What a blast! The growing season was a pure delight, putting smiles on everyone's face! The vines loved the gentle spring rain and quickly produced a healthy, vibrantly green canopy. In December, our Nelson sun made for perfect flowering and good pollination.

Summer brought many weeks of blue skies, interspersed with brief rain falls, just enough to keep the soil moisture up and the vines thriving.

We couldn't believe our luck when we saw this weather pattern continue right into harvest in mid-March! The fruit was in perfect condition with high sugar levels and tremendous flavour intensity, probably the best we've ever seen it.

From **Sustainable Production**, accredited by Sustainable Winegrowing New Zealand **Vegan wine**, perfect for vegan wine lovers



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 by the family-bubble during lockdown, 22 April 2020, 23.9 Brix

Winery: di-stemmed before fermentation on the skins, hand-plunged, gently pressed, gravity-fed from press area to main winery, minimal pumping, **no fining**
Aged for 12 months in two and three year old French barrels in temperature controlled barrel room.
Bottled on 21 July 2021, 14.5% alcohol
Light-weight bottles to reduce carbon footprint
Screw capsules, **only 113 cases produced**

94/100 Bob Campbell MW, therealreview.com
Inky Montepulciano with dense, ripe dark berry, cassis, wood-smoke and spicy flavours supported by a backbone of sweet, ripe tannins. Deliciously accessible now but should age well. 25 Aug 2021

5 Stars Michael Cooper, michaelcooperwines.com