

# **Babich The Patriarch 2008**

The Patriarch is our flagship red wine, grown on our Gimblett Gravels 'Irongate' vineyard in Hawke's Bay and made in honour of the company founder and New Zealand wine industry pioneer, Josip Babich. With this wine we allow ourselves complete flexibility in order to make the best we can – we are not committed to a particular variety or blend and crop levels are very restricted.

## Grapes:

Cabernet Sauvignon 61%, Malbec 39%

## Region:

Hawke's Bay - Gimblett Gravels

### Recommended Food:

Ideal with roasted red meats. It makes a good partner for a whole fillet beef, roasted rare. Also perfect with a tasty winter casseroled stew.

# **Recommended Cellaring:**

4-15 years

### **Production Notes:**

Cabernet Sauvignon raised its hand again this year as the dominant grape for the blend. Malbec adds earthiness, sweet fruit, and balance at 39%. Select crop thinned parcels of fruit were hand harvested then fermented in small open vats and hand plunged. Both varieties received an extended maceration period on skins after ferment. The new wines were drained to French oak barriques, to mature for 12 months, and blended after extensive tasting trials. The Wine spent a total of 18 months in oak. Minimal fining and filtering was employed prior to bottling.

### **Technical Notes:**

Alcohol 13.0% TA 6.5g/l pH 3.49 Residual Sugar 0g/l

# **Tasting Notes:**

This wine has a dark, brooding and enticing nose. Complex berry fruit aromas integrate beautifully with notes of cigar box and a hint of mint. A finely focused and even wine. Dark and spicy fruit follows though onto the palate. A medium bodied wine with fine granular tannins. Pleasant dark woodland fruit finish.

### Awards:

4.5 STARS -Michael Cooper's Buyer's Guide to New Zealand Wines 2011

5 STARS, 19/20 -Raymond Chan, www.raymondchanwinereviews.co.nz, Jan 2011

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- 5 STARS, 93 POINTS -Sam Kim, Wine Orbit, Feb, 2011
- 4 STARS -TiZwine.com, September 2011
- 4 STARS, 90 POINTS -Bob Campbell, www.bobswinereviews.com, June 2011

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