

# Babich Irongate Chardonnay 2011

We have been producing Irongate Chardonnay since 1985 and it has evolved into this richly flavoured, balanced and elegant wine. The vines from this now-famous Gimblett Gravels 'Irongate' vineyard are selected at pruning and crop levels are closely monitored to ensure excellent flavour concentration in the grapes (Mendoza).

# Region:

Hawke's Bay - Gimblett Gravels

#### Recommended Food:

Irongate Chardonnay is an intense, richly flavoured wine and is an ideal match for rich seafood and white meat dishes. Try it with char-grilled squid and lemon butter sauce, or barbecued chicken.

## **Recommended Cellaring:**

3-10 years

#### **Production Notes:**

In Mid- March, selected parcels of hand harvested fruit were gently whole bunch pressed. The free run was put to French oak, 20% new, for wild fermentation. After primary ferment the wine was lees stirred to add complexity and build palate weight. The wine spent just under ten months in barrel before assembly and bottling.

# **Technical Notes:**

Alcohol: 13.0% TA: 6.5g/l pH: 3.38

Residual Sugar: 1.3g/l

## **Tasting Notes:**

The nose is captivating and perfumed, liberally dosed with mealy notes that merge into white peach and apricot. The entry is sweet fruited and develops into a luscious and complex wine full of grapefruit, peach and cashew nut flavours. An attractive hint of vanilla biscuit can also be detected on the finely structured and layered palate. Lemon, citrus and spicy oak linger on the finish. A skillfully balanced wine.

#### Awards:

5 STARS, 18.5/20 -Raymond Chan, www.raymondchanwinereviews.co.nz, April 2012

5 STARS -Michael Cooper, www.michaelcooper.co.nz, 2012

5 STARS -Cameron Douglas, Master Sommelier, June 2012

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