

# **Babich Irongate Chardonnay 2008**

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:**

3-8 years

#### **Production Notes:**

In late March, selected parcels of hand harvested fruit were gently whole bunch pressed. The free run was put to French oak, 25% new, for wild fermentation. After primary ferment the wine was lees stirred to add complexity and build palate weight. A total of 11 months was spent in barrel before assembly and bottling.

#### **Technical Notes:**

Alcohol: 14.5% TA: 6.6g/l pH: 3.35

Residual Sugar: 1.5g/l

# **Tasting Notes:**

This wine has a rich, opulent and perfumed nose. Sweet hay, apricots and cashew lift persistently and delightfully from the glass. The palate is powerful yet smooth with layers of peach, citrus and walnut. A delectably plump and leesy weight is complimented by the smooth texture. A lengthy finish of dried apricots complete this very classy wine.

# Awards:

94 POINTS, 5 STARS -Sam Kim, Wine Orbit, Oct 2010

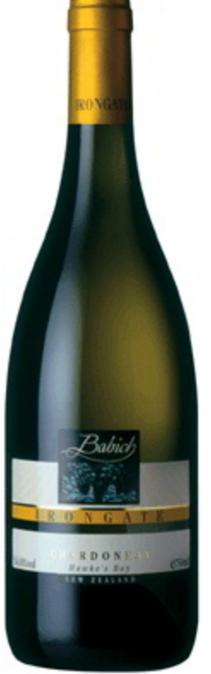
4.5 STARS, 'CLASSIC', VALUE+ -Michael Cooper's Buyer's Guide to New Zealand Wines 2011

4.5 STARS -Winestate Magazine, Michael Cooper, March/April 2011

5 STARS -Raymond Chan Wine Reviews, www.raymondchanwinereviews.co.nz, Jan 2011

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New Zealand Wine

5 STARS -Hawke's Bay Today, '5 of The Best', Yvonne Lorkin, March 26, 2011 4 STARS, 90 POINTS -Bob Campbell MW, bobswinereviews.com, April, 2011

90 POINTS -Lisa Perrotti-Brown, eRobertParker.com #197, Oct 2011

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