



*Babich*

NEW ZEALAND WINE

## Babich Irongate Cabernet Merlot Franc 2009

We have been producing Irongate Cabernet Merlot since 1986 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.

### Grapes:

67% Cabernet Sauvignon , 25% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc

### Region:

Hawke's Bay - Gimblett Gravels

### Recommended Food:

This wine is a brilliant match for red meats, game and pasta dishes. A perfect partner for casseroled lamb shanks or with Scotch fillet, roasted rare in the piece.

### Recommended Cellaring:

4-10 years

### Production Notes:

Extensive crop thinning in the vineyard produced select parcels of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc . These grapes were hand picked, individually fermented and hand plunged in open vats before spending an extended time on skin post ferment to aid structural development. The wines were put into new and seasoned French oak and assessed for quality after several months. After 13 months the wine was blended and bottled. A good year for Cabernet Sauvignon it dominates the blend at 68%, (Merlot 23% and Cabernet Franc 9%).

### Technical Notes:

Alcohol: 13.5%

TA: 5.6g/l

pH: 3.75

Residual Sugar: 0g/l

### Tasting Notes:

Distinctively warm and lifted with sweet dried black Doris plums and ripe blueberries on the nose (characteristic notes from the Irongate vineyard). Leather and nutty cedar add an attractive complexity. The palate exudes red and dark fruits upon entry and is well balanced and harmonious with smooth velvety tannins and a fine texture. Dried herbs are balanced perfectly alongside the rich fruit. Blueberry and cocoa linger on the finish. A classic claret with lovely soft acid and welcoming density.

### Awards:



*Excellence Through Experience*

[www.babichwines.co.nz](http://www.babichwines.co.nz)

SINCE 1916



THREE GENERATIONS



OF FINE WINEMAKING

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5 STARS, 18.5/20 -Raymond Chan, [www.raymondchanwinereveiw.co.nz](http://www.raymondchanwinereveiw.co.nz), April 2011

5 STARS -Winestate Magazine, July/August 2011

5 STARS, 93-95 POINTS -Sam Kim, Wine Orbit, June 2011

4 STARS -Bob Campbell, [www.bobswinereviews.com](http://www.bobswinereviews.com), June 2011

5 STARS, TOP TIP -TiZwine.com, September 2011

5 STARS -Michael Cooper, Michael Cooper's Buyer's Guide to New Zealand Wines 2012

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

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