

la collina

SYRAH

2018

la collina - (Italian) the hill

The *la collina* vineyard is a steep, terraced and incline planted hillside vineyard on the North/Northwest facing slopes of Roys Hill, west of Hastings, Hawke's Bay, New Zealand. The hillside is protected from the cooling effects of the southerly winds and during the growing season the vineyard is bathed in sunshine. The hillside terraces are planted to Syrah (and a few other interesting Varieties) whilst the lower slopes and Gravels flat are planted to Chardonnay and Viognier/Marsanne/Roussanne.

Our program of replanting and replacing some of the older Syrah vines on the hillside is coming to an end. The biggest impact of this program has been on the crop levels for the last few harvests. The upside is that this problem will rectify itself with time and crop levels will return to their regular low levels as opposed to the current extra low levels. The brilliance of the *la collina* vineyard is its naturally low cropping levels. We have seen a slight increase in volume for 2018.

As with most Hawke's Bay vintages there was some rain in 2018 before the harvest of the *la collina* fruit but the hillside site, with gravity and Autumnal winds on its side, allows for the impact of rain to be minimal. Skill, patience and vines and fruit in good condition before the rain means we were well placed to see out wet weather events.

We maintain our winemaking philosophy of trying to preserve the very distinct vineyard character and fruit purity in order that each vintage produced is a reflection of the site whilst also saying "I'm from Hawke's Bay". Berries and Hawke's Bay spice, weighty yet unobtrusive, fine tannins and a beautifully balanced palate. Light on its feet but not light in stature.

Great to drink now. Cellar some and enjoy again, and again, over the next 15 - 20 years.

Each wine is a journey not a destination! (*Ralph Waldo Emerson*—kind of!)



Bilancia

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