

## **IRONGATE CABERNET MERLOT FRANC 2016**

### **WINESTATE MAGAZINE**

November 2019

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5 Stars

This refined Gimblett Gravels red was matured for over a year in French oak barriques (40% new). Dark and youthful in colour, it is mouthfilling and well-structured, with deep blackcurrant, plum and spice flavours, oak complexity and an inviting fragrance.

### **GIMBLETT GRAVELS ANNUAL VINTAGE SELECTION 2019**

18.5/20 Points

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Winemaker Adam Hazeldine blended three grapes to make this dry, full-bodied, flavoursome red from Cabernet Sauvignon (54%), Merlot (40%) and Cabernet Franc (6%), which he matured for 13-14 months in oak, 40% new barrels. It's a top quality red with firm, smooth mouthfeel, high acidity, ripe fruit and lots of time up its sleeve. Cellar it.

### **MICHAELCOOPER.CO.NZ**

Michael Cooper, July 2019

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5 Stars

Grown in the Irongate Vineyard and aged in French oak barriques (40 per cent new in 2016), this elegant, complex, firmly structured red is designed for cellaring. Retasted in April 2019, the 2016 vintage (5\*) has promisingly deep, youthful colour. Fragrant and mouthfilling, it is well-structured, with deep blackcurrant, plum and spice flavours, oak complexity, good tannin backbone and excellent cellaring potential; open 2022+.

### **THE SHOUT HOSPITALITY MAGAZINE**

Cameron Douglas MS, April 2019

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94 Points

### **DECANTER MAGAZINE**

Rebecca Gibb MW, February 2019

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94 Points

An impressive, elegant, mid-weight Cabernet-led blend that could easily be confused for a decent Bordeaux. Expect some attractive and integrated pyrazine-derived herbal aromas in the layered, youthful, dense black fruit. The tannins are abundant yet resolved, providing a snug jacket that grips the body. It displays a smart use of oak, with cedar and Christmas spices providing fragrance on the long finish. Very well done.

### **THEREALREVIEW.COM**

Huon Hooke, January

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93 Points

Deep red colour with the merest tinge of purple, while the bouquet is strongly crushed-leafy, tobaccoey and just a little green. There are vaillan oak inputs as well. The wine is lean and nervy, with some grittiness and slight bitterness in the tannins. Its ripeness is just slightly on the cusp. Some tomato-bush touches. A very good wine all the same - it has richness, flesh and fruit-sweetness.