



## Reviews & Accolades

### **THE PATRIARCH 2015**

#### WINESTATE MAGAZINE

November / December 2018 Issue

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5 Stars

This very refined, savoury Gimblett Gravels red is a blend of cabernet sauvignon (51%), merlot (27%) and malbec (22%), estate-grown in the Irongate Vineyard. Dark and highly fragrant, it is full-bodied, with concentrated, ripe blackcurrant, plum, spice and nutty oak flavours, that build across the palate to a lovely, long finish.

#### SIX NATIONS WINE CHALLENGE

October 2018

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Gold Medal & 5 Stars

#### REBECCAGIBB.COM

Rebecca Gibb MW, June 2018

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5 Stars

One of Babich's top tier wines, named in memory of Josip Babich, who founded the company in west Auckland in the early 20th century, this is a rather delicate expression on the palate, offering moderate density of fruit without heft. A blend of 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot and 22% Malbec, this blend seems to work offering flesh to Cabernet's bones. There's also some appetising floral/violet high notes, likely hailing from the Malbec, in addition to the black fruit and oak-derived vanillins. The tannins are fine grained but ripe and there's a fresh sensation on the conclusion. Still far too young to drink.

#### WINEANORAK.COM

Jamie Goode, May 2018

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90 Points

Fresh, pure and balanced with a savoury, gravelly edge to the bright black cherry and blackcurrant fruit. Youthful and quite primary with some grainy tannic structure. Has a firmness and a sense of restraint. Should age really nicely, putting on some weight in the process.

#### DECANTER WORLD WINE AWARDS

May 2018

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Silver Medal & 90 Points

Smoky and firm with blackberry, Morello cherry, cassis and a touch of olive character. Impressively concentrated with strong framework.

## DECANTER MAGAZINE

Andrew Jefford, May 2018

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90 Points

This blend of 51 per cent Cabernet with 27 per cent of Merlot and 22 per cent of Malbec is dark black-red in colour, with sweet, warm, fresh and alluring scents of black cherry, blackcurrant and blackberry discreetly plumped up by 15 months in oak. That hugely enjoyable fruit provides most of the palate satisfaction in sweet, round, tasty and lip-smacking style, darkening a little towards black-chocolate austerity at the very end.

## WINE ADVOCATE

Joe Czerwinski, February 2018

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92 Points

A blend of 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot and 22% Malbec, Babich's 2015 The Patriarch offers a full-on nose of chocolate and cedar oak, then backs that with dark cassis and plum fruit, ample weight and richness and a long, velvety finish. More powerful and extracted than the 2015 Irongate blend, it's also less floral and pretty, but it should prove capable of aging through at least 2030.

## INTERNATIONAL WINE CHALLENGE

February 2018

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Silver Medal & 92 Points

A lovely perfumed nose with plum, hints of dark chocolate, carrying through to long finish.

## RAYMONDCHANWINEREVIEWS.CO.NZ

Raymond Chan, 2017

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Full, dark, black-red colour with youthful purple tints, a little lighter on the edge. The nose is softly full and harmoniously integrated with layers of rich, ripe blackberry fruit melded with an amalgam of cassis liqueur and ripe black plums, some liquorice and soft spicy oak. Medium-full bodied, the palate has great richness and sweetness of ripe blackberry fruit with hint of exotic spice, plums and liquorice and sweet oak. The flavours are succulent and mouth-filling, with impressive fruit depth. The fruit is supported by considerable tannin extract, the textures fine-grained and flowery, and the acidity is ripe, soft and integrated. The wine carries with a concentrated core to a long, lingering, rich and plush finish. This is a rich and succulent, harmonious, black berried and plum-fruited Cabernet/Merlot blend with exotic spice notes and very fine, flowery tannin extraction.

## OTAGO DAILY TIMES

Mark Henderson, November 2017

Dark fruited nose, graphite with perfumed oak. Ripe black fruits and spice flood the palate, a tamarillo note adding a sweet & sour zestiness to the mid palate. Dense and weighty; the tannins suck your cheeks in yet work wonderfully with the overall weight of the wine, creating a dry mid palate before the appealingly long, fruit-led finish.

## THE LISTENER

Michael Cooper, October 2017

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5 Stars

Each vintage, this is Babich's greatest red, regardless of the variety or region. Grown in the Irongate Vineyard, in Gimblett Rd, this is a boldly coloured, youthful blend of cabernet sauvignon, merlot and malbec. Invitingly fragrant, it is sturdy (13.5% alc/vol), with deep, deliciously ripe blackcurrant, plum, spice and nut flavours, very complex and savoury. A highly refined red, it's well worth cellaring.

## HAWKE'S BAY WINE AWARDS

October 2017

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Silver Medal

## CAMERONDOUGLASMS.CO.NZ

Cameron Douglas MS, September 2017

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95 Points

Dark purple core, almost opaque, purple hues to the rim with a light pink edge. Aromas of dark berries, dark olives, hay and herbs, smoky wood tones, chocolate and dark spices including clove and vanilla; complex and youthful. On the palate – equally complex and loaded with flavours of sweet dark berries, marmite, clove, dark olive, dusty powdery tannins and balancing acidity. A lovely wine with a violet floral edge and long finish. Decant for service. Best drinking from 2019 through 2030.

## BOBCAMPBELL.NZ

Bob Campbell MW, June 2017

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5 Stars & 95 Points

A blend of merlot, cabernet sauvignon and malbec from the Gimblett Gravels district of Hawke's Bay. Rich, complex and quite mellow red, with cedar and cassis dominating other plum and spicy oak flavours. There is also a suggestion of savoury old leather, malt extract and liquorice character. An intriguing wine with a character all of its own. Drink 2017 to 2024.