

TANTALUS ESTATE

ÉCLUSE

RESERVE 2015



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www.tantalus.co.nz

WINEMAKING

Fermented in stainless steel open-top fermenters, with indigenous and selected yeasts. Punched down up to four times per day, followed by an extended maceration. Gently basket pressed and transferred into mostly new French oak for twelve months maturation. Four rackings during élevage. No fining.

HARVEST REPORT

Region: Waiheke Island
Grapes: Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot & Malbec
Harvest: 100% hand harvest
Brix: 22.5-24
Production: 35hl/ha. Single vineyard

VINTAGE REPORT

A wet winter gave way to a calm, dry spring resulting in great fruit-set. The year started cool, but by December temperatures we were well above average. January was one of the hottest and driest on record with twenty-five days above 30C. February was cooler, but remained warm and dry. Overall, conditions were ideal for the production of small and highly concentrated berries, capable of producing powerful and full-bodied red wines.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS AT BOTTLING

Alcohol:	Residual Sugar:	pH:	TA:
14%	1g/l	3.57	6.3g/l

TASTING NOTES

Dark amethyst ringed by violets, ripe damson plum and racy red berry fruit. Spearmint, earth, leather and black olives meld with fresh ground coffee. Silky tannins provide a wine of power and grace. Structure and sustained length. The Écluse has been made for long term cellaring. Half of the total production of this wine was bottled in high quality Italian Bruni glass bottles, which are designed to support lengthy cellaring.

Cellaring Potential: Long term (10+ years)

FOOD PAIRINGS

This wine pairs beautifully with New Zealand Lamb, Porcini Mushroom Risotto, Aged New Zealand Cheeses or a Decadent Chocolate Dessert.

ORIGIN OF THE NAME

A Tantalus is a small wooden cabinet that contains two or three decanters of precious wine, for which there is a lock and key. The Tantalus prevents unauthorised people from opening the cabinet and drinking its contents, while allowing the bottles' beauty to be on display. With a key to our Tantalus wines, one obtains access to the secrets of the treasures held within. All our reserve wines have names referring to the origins of Tantalus. An 'écluse' allows boats to pass through bodies of water at differing levels. Unlock our Écluse and let your glass take you on the most amazing journey.

AWARDS & ACCOLADES

90 points - Joe Czerwinski, Robert Parker's Wine Advocate

Silver Medal - London IWC 2018

97 points - Sam Kim

95 points - Bob Campbell MW

92 points - Cameron Douglas MS

5 stars - Michael Cooper

5 stars - Raymond Chan



REVIEWER'S COMMENTS

'The Cabernet-dominant 2015 Écluse Reserve features aristocratic, Bordeaux-like aromas of pencil shavings and cassis. It shows proper Cabernet austerity, a streamlined profile and firm tannins. The acids are crisp, lending a cutting edge to the long finish.'

-Joe Czerwinski 2018

'Big, bold oaky bouquet backed up with dark berry fruits of blackberry and black currant, dark spices of clove and burnt vanilla, cocoa nib and smoky, meaty oak. Dry, full-bodied, oaky, smoky and rich in flavour and texture. No missing the tannins with a granular mealy feel, equalising acidity then back to fruit and oak. Long finish - a bold and expressive example. Drink from 2020 through 2030.'

-Cameron Douglas 2018

'Big, bold, with spice and black cherries, blackberry notes too. Tannins are built to last, thick and firm.'

- London IWC 2018

'The powerful, concentrated, and classy 2015 vintage (5) is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Malbec. Estate-grown at Onetangi, it was matured for a year in French oak barriques. Deep and youthful in colour, it is very youthful, with dense, firm blackcurrant, plum and spice flavours, complex, well-structured and likely to be long-lived. Well worth discovering, it should be at its best 2022+.'*

- Michael Cooper 2018

'Full, even, very dark ruby-red colour with black hues, lighter on the rim. The nose is full and broad with voluminous and solidly-packed aromas of very ripe blackberry and plum fruit, along with a little portiness, entwined with plenty of nutty and pencil oak, along with nuances of spice and earth. Medium-full bodied, the palate is rich and sweet with plush, mouth-filling flavours of ripe blackberry fruit, along with blackcurrants and cassis liqueur, plus black plums, all underlaid by spicy, nutty oak. The fruit sweetness is underlined by considerable fine-grained tannin extraction lending plenty of structure and grip. The wine has good acid energy, carrying the flavours to a long, plush, juicy finish. This is a rich, ripe plummy-fruited Cabernet Sauvignon-based red with mouth-filling flavours, plenty of oak and considerable structure. Match with roasted game meats and casseroles over the next 8-10+ years.'

- Raymond Chan 2018

A blend of cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc, merlot and malbec. Cabernet rules with classic cedar, cigar box, blackberry, cassis and black olive flavours, together with a suggestion of fresh herbs. A complex red with power and potential. (Cork) 95 Points, and Ranked #6 of 2015 Cabernet Blends.

- Bob Campbell 2019

