

TANTALUS ÉCLUSE RESERVE 2014



TANTALUS ESTATE

www.tantalus.co.nz

WINEMAKING

Fermented in stainless steel open-top fermenters, with indigenous and selected yeasts. Punched down up to 4 times per day followed by an extended maceration. Gently basket pressed and transferred into mostly new French oak for 12 months maturation. 4 rackings during *élevage*. No fining.

VINEYARDS & HARVEST

Region: Waiheke Island
Grapes: Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot & Malbec
Harvest: 100% hand harvest
Brix: 23.5-25
Production: 35hl/ha. Single vineyard

VINTAGE REPORT

Warm and dry conditions in early spring gave a healthy fruit-set. Late December rains replenished much needed moisture and were followed by a period of sunny dry weather. The 2014 growing season delivered 19% below average rainfall, allowing selective harvests at optimum ripeness and delivering wines with complexity and depth of flavour.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS AT BOTTLING

Alcohol:	Residual Sugar:	pH:	TA:
14%	<1g/l	3.66	6.28g/l

TASTING NOTES

This deep garnet Cabernet dominant blend opens with aromas of dark berries and fresh violets. Great purity of fruit is expressed with blackcurrants and black cherry underpinned by dried herbs, fresh mint, toast and tar. Slowly unlocking the secrets within, this wine displays tremendous structure with muscular tannins and sustained length. The *Écluse* has been made for long term cellaring.

Cellaring Potential: Long term (10+ years)

FOOD PAIRINGS

Slow roasted lamb shoulder with fresh mint topping, Flank steak and tamarind stir-fry, Porcini mushroom risotto, Old fashioned beef stew, Grilled rib steak on vine shoots barbecue

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

92+ points - Robert Parkers Wine Advocate

4.5 Stars - 93 Points - Bob Campbell

4.5 Stars - 92 Points - Sam Kim

Silver London IWC

An elegant wine with floral, red berry, sweet herb and spicy oak flavours. Dusty tannins balance sweet fruit flavours. Interesting and distinctive wine - approachable now but with cellaring potential - Bob Campbell 2016

A Cabernet Sauvignon dominant Bordeaux blend, the 2014 *Ecluse Reserve* has a medium to deep garnet-purple colored and expressive nose of red and black currants, black cherries and cedar box with hints of violets and bay leaves. Medium to full-bodied, it packs the palate with rich, ripe red and black berry flavors, supported by finely grained tannins and plenty of freshness, finishing long and layered - Lisa Perrotti-Brown (June 2017)

