

# TANTALUS ÉCLUSE RESERVE 2015



TANTALUS ESTATE

[www.tantalus.co.nz](http://www.tantalus.co.nz)

## WINEMAKING

Fermented in stainless steel open-top fermenters, with indigenous and selected yeasts. Extended maceration for extraction. Punched down up to 4 times per day. Gentle basket pressing 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:** 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 were well above average. January was one of the hottest and driest on record with 25 days above 30C. February was cooler, but remained warm and dry delivering. 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

<b>Alcohol:</b>	<b>Residual Sugar:</b>	<b>pH:</b>	<b>TA:</b>
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 to provide a wine of power and grace. Structure and sustained length. The Ecluse 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, and takes its name from the unsatisfied temptations of an ancient character of Greek mythology. 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 - Robert Parkers Wine Advocate

92 points - Cameron Douglas MS

Silver Medal - London IWC

4 star/5 star TBC - Michael Cooper 2018

5 stars (18.5+/20) - Raymond Chan

The Cabernet-dominant 2015 Ecluse 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 (1st Mar 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 (13th Apr 2018)



## AWARDS & ACCOLADES CONT.

*Big, bold, with spice and black cherries, blackberry notes too. Tannins are built to last, thick and firm.*  
- **London IWC (May 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 (Sept 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 spice and earth. Medium-full bodied, the palate is rich and sweet with plush, mouthfilling 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 mouthfilling flavours, plenty of oak and considerable structure. Match with roasted game meats and casseroles over the next 8-10+ years. A blend of 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Cabernet Franc, 21% Merlot and 5% Malbec, fermented to 14.0% alc., the wine aged 12 months in 100% new French oak barriques. 18.5-/20 Sep 2018 RRP \$90.00*  
- **Raymond Chan (Sept 2018)**