

Now in its 10th edition, *Michael Cooper's Buyer's Guide to New Zealand Wines* is the wine lover's Bible, with total sales approaching 90 000 copies.

Buyer's guide to New Zealand Wines

10th
EDITION

Schubert Hawke's Bay Cabernet Franc

The 1999 vintage (★★★★) is a contender for the title of New Zealand's greatest Cabernet Franc to date. Grown in Gimblett Road and matured for two years in all-new French oak barriques, it's a splendid wine, very powerful (14.5 per cent alcohol), with dense, purple-fruit colour. Its super-concentrated blackcurrant, plum and spicy oak flavours are warm, harmonious and complex, with a soft, rich finish. Pricey but outstanding.

DRY \$65

Schubert Syrah

The densely coloured, purple-black 1999 vintage (★★★★) is a blend of Gimblett Road (Hawke's Bay) and Martinborough grapes, matured for 19 months in all-new French oak barriques. It's a strapping wine (14.5 per cent alcohol), peppery, with blackcurrant and slight chocolate characters and nutty oak. Fresh and strongly spicy, with excellent concentration, it should be at its best from 2002 onwards.

(★★★★)

DRY \$45

Schubert Wairarapa Valley Riesling

Light lemon/green, the 2000 vintage (★★★★) is a slightly sweet style, crisp and tight, with strong lemon/lime flavours, good sugar/acid balance and attractive vigour and freshness. Looks good for 2002-03.

(★★★★)

MED. DRY \$18 AV

Schubert Hawke's Bay Cabernet Sauvignon

From a Wairarapa-based company, the powerful 1999 vintage (★★★★) is an exciting Cabernet Sauvignon. Grown in Gimblett Road and matured for two years in all-new French oak barriques, it's a strapping wine (14.5 per cent alcohol) with bold, very youthful colour. Highly concentrated with rich, sweet fruit characters, dense flavours of blackcurrant, spice and dark chocolate. Ripe, supple tannins, it should offer top drinking over the next decade.

(★★★★)

DRY \$18

Schubert Dolce

Named after the Italian viticulturist who planted the vineyard a decade earlier, the 1999 vintage (★★★★) is an unusual blend of Müller-Thurgau and Sauvignon Blanc, grown in the Wairarapa. Amber-hued, it's a strongly botrytised style, only 9 per cent alcohol, with concentrated, apricot-like flavours threaded with crisp acidity. Very rich and honeyed, it's not highly aromatic, but the palate is compelling.

(★★★★)

SW \$25 (275ML) AV

Schubert Hawke's Bay Chardonnay

The 2000 vintage (★★★★) is a good opus 1. Grown in Gimblett Road, Hawke's Bay, and partly handled in tanks, but 54 per cent of the blend was fermented and lees-aged in French oak barriques (75 per cent new). Light lemon/green, with a fresh, tight, nutty bouquet, it is very crisp, with good depth of lemony, apple flavours, a strong oak influence and a slightly dry finish. It needs time; open mid-2002+.

(★★★★)

DRY \$18

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