



MONOWAI

2020 UPPER REACHES MERLOT



Our Upper Reaches range represents our best vineyard parcels and receives the best treatment in the winery to produce extra special wines, built to age with structure and richness but still plenty of drinkability from an early age. Only produced in excellent vintages, the Upper Reaches range showcases our unique cool-climate site, our years of winemaking and viticultural experience all over the world and our commitment to bringing this all together to make something extra special.

TASTING NOTES

This Merlot is dark and brooding, richly perfumed with ripe plum, vanilla and toasty oak aromas. Fresh bramble fruits dominate on the palate and the chalky tannins are balanced by a fresh acid backbone, giving a wine which is velvety, inviting and full bodied.

VITICULTURE & WINEMAKING

The grapes for this extra special wine come from 18-year-old vines from our block closest to the mighty Ngaruroro river. The vines were specially managed to keep yields low and we let the fruit hang out a little while longer than our Estate Merlot to maximise the flavour profile. Once picked, the wine was fermented in open top tanks and hand plunged twice daily before being aged for 15 months in a blend of 1 and 2-year-old French oak barrels.

CELLARING

Crafted to be ready for drinking on release but also with the ability to age gracefully, this Merlot will soften and develop in richness and complexity over at least the next 8 years. Thanks to our elevated, inland position, our wines naturally have good acid levels, which allows them to age gracefully for many years.

FOOD PAIRING



Rib eye steak and thick cut chips



Aged Cheddar and Gouda



Venison burgers