MAN O' WAR



MAN O' WAR DREADNOUGHT SYRAH 2024

Winemaking

The 2024 growing season on Waiheke delivered an exceptional vintage. A warm, dry campaign with a well-timed interplay of heat and cooling sea breezes produced a long, even ripening period that encouraged steady sugar and phenolic development without pushing the fruit into over-ripeness. Low rainfall through late summer and harvest reduced disease pressure and allowed for targeted picks, yielding concentrated fruit, ripe yet refined tannins, and a distinctive combination of richness and maritime freshness—undeniably one of the finest seasons for Dreadnought Syrah in recent memory.

Hand-harvested fruit was partially destemmed, with 15% whole bunch inclusion forming our fermentation base; select parcels were fermented as 100% whole bunch. Fermentations were wild and ran for 30 days in vat with gentle pump-overs and occasional plunges while being regularly tasted to guide extraction. Wines were pressed to puncheon and matured on light lees for 18 months, after which parcels were blended, allowed to harmonise in tank, and bottled in January 2026.

Tasting Notes

A hugely perfumed nose; ripe blue black fruits lead, accompanied by incense, a savoury olive tapenade note and exotic Moroccan spices, all framed by smoky, saline mineral undertones. On the palate it's concentrated and powerful yet precise - rich fruit density tempered by bright energy and fine grained tannins. Long, mineral tinged finish with a persistent savoury spice thread.

One of the 2024 Dreadnought Syrah's greatest strengths is the seamless meeting of classical Rhône perfume with smoky, saline minerals derived from our proximity to the Pacific Ocean. When a wine consistently expresses terroir-driven minerality across vintages and through age, it earns a place among the world's greats. The 2024 Dreadnought Syrah belongs there - squarely among the wine elite.

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Product Details

Harvest Date: 19/03/2026 – 08/04/26

T.A: 5.7 pH: 3.70 R.S: Dry ALC: 13.7%

Region: Waiheke Island

Barrel: 20% New French Oak Barriques, 80% Seasoned

Vineyards: Mad Mans, Big North, 20 Tonner, Goats, Asylum, Mouses, North 3, Garden Cove

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