

Robert Parker

WINE ADVOCATE

Erin Larkin, December 2023

Coleraine '22

97+/100

It is clear to me that the Coleraine from Te Mata is New Zealand's greatest Cabernet blend—this was emphasized after the time spent in the vineyards. The level of detail and attention paid to determining and managing vine vigor through the use of varied and appropriate cover crops, vine exertion during the growing season and tannin management in the vineyard is staggering.

The 2022 Coleraine is laden at this stage with the outrageous attractiveness of youth. I mean, it's irresistible. There's raspberry, nori, rose petals, coffee grounds, star anise, salted licorice, sun-dried kelp/nori, warm pine and layers of peppercorns. In the mouth, the wine is so fresh, so alive, with so much energy, but it already is showing the svelte line of this house, this place. With a hint of raw cocoa laced through the finish, I'm sad to push this glass away. It will be the last time that I taste it for a while. A ripper. Excellent. This is composed of 84% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc. Having spent two hours in the vineyards prior to this tasting, the level of detail and viticultural care fills me with comfort and confidence, even more than I already had. It's great. These older vineyards are looked after to absurd detail. Every 1% pays off, and that is the defining difference between a good estate and a great one.

New Zealand's greatest Cabernet blend ... A ripper.

Te MATA
ESTATE 1896

