

# Estate Black

**White gold hue. bouquet of ginger, white blossom, linen, lime and ripe pear. Broad textured and vibrant with unctuous palate weight. Soft but pure white rock minerals giving a unique and intriguing length. Dry. Drink now to 2025.**

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## **Vineyard**

Fruit for this Riesling is sourced from our Damsteep Vineyard which is located in the north east of Waipara Valley at the foot of the Omihi saddle. This hillside vineyard was planted in 1999 on clay and limestone rich soils. The soils in the Riesling vineyard are very dense brown to orange in color and inter bedded with sandstones and subordinate limestone horizons. This 2.2 hectare hillside vineyard has a vine density of more than 5000 vine per hectare.

## **Season**

A dry mild winter meant a continuation of the drought in the North Canterbury region. Normally green hills were pale and drying off early except for early green shoots in hillside vineyards. Late spring frosts lowered yields in some vineyards and added to the stress on the vines as canopies were established. Un-seasonally heavy rainfall in January provided some reprieve from the drought and the vines around the valley sprung to life pushing young shoot tips and completing canopy establishment. Dry conditions returned and continued into late Autumn allowing gradual and even ripening of fruit with very little disease pressure. Despite the early

season challenges vintage 2016 ended with balanced, ripe, and disease free fruit making harvest a deserved celebration of another unique harvest.

## **Harvest**

Hand harvested from March 26 to April 22 2016. Harvest 14.3 Tons  
Yield 0.5-1.6 kg/ vine Brix 19.2-22.5°  
TA 6.4-7.5g/L pH 3.02-3.25

## **Fermentation**

Whole bunch pressed. 15% of the fruit was foot crushed. Yeast used for fermentation were propagated from a vineyard starter. The ferment lasted for 3 months at between 10- and 18 degrees centigrade in stainless steel tanks and 5% in old 500L barrels. The tanks were then moved outside the winery where the wine matured on lees in stainless steel tanks through winter. Blended in spring and bottled in summer.

## **Bottled**

984 cases bottled in one lot under screw cap on December 5 2016.

R. S. 4.8g/L      T. A. 6.2g/L      pH  
3.15      Alcohol 12.0%