

ALPHA DOMUS
The Aviator 2002
Hawkes Bay, New Zealand

VIA
PACIFICA
SELECTIONS
1 800 823 5545
www.viapacifica.com

Winery Principals The Ham Family
Winemaker Evert Nijzink & Kate Galloway

Wine Specifications

Cases imported	198
Alcohol	14.0%
T/A	0.55 g/100ml
pH	3.73
Residual Sugar	<.01 g/100ml
Brix at Harvest	22.0 - 24.1
Cellaring	Up to 7 years
Harvest Dates	2 March - 15 April 2002

Vineyards

Location

Two estate vineyards in the Hawkes Bay Triangle on Maraekakaho Road.

Soils

Silt loam overlying river gravels.

Vines

A variety of clones, mostly grafted on 3309 and 101-14 rootstocks. All vines are spur-pruned and normal VSP is used with trimming and some leaf plucking. Crop yields are kept low. Shoot and bunch thinning take place as needed.

Vintage

Early budburst. Cool summer, with slightly higher than normal rainfall, allowed slow ripening.

Vinification

Hand-harvested and crushed to purpose-built fermenters. Aged for 16 month in French oak barrels (75% new). Blended and bottled without fining or filtration.

Winemaker's Notes

Blend

38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 20% Cab. Franc, 18% Malbec

Bouquet

Red fruits and spice, with leather, cedar, and cigar box notes.

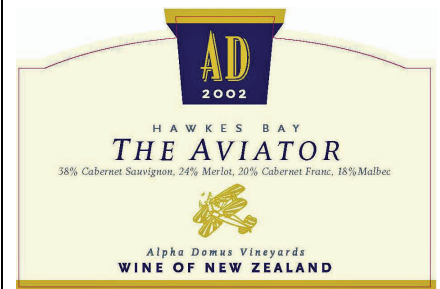
Palate

Sweet, rounded berry fruit, chocolate, spices, fine oak. Silky texture and firm structure.

Serving Suggestions

Full-flavored red meats, artisan breads and cheeses.

SRP US\$56.00



Cassis, chocolate, dark roasted coffee beans and ripe spices leap out of the glass. Very upfront but measured fruit. The rich, ripe and equally generous tannins are very intense. The structure is rich but no hard, and there is freshness on the finish. *Decanter: New Zealand Guide 2008*

★★★★½

Another classy, pricy wine from Hawkes Bay, but the extra couple of years' bottle age makes all the difference to drinkability. It still has dense blackcurrant fruit, but it has mellowed and malty, spicy complexities have developed. It's powerful, intense, concentrated and firmly structured, but balanced and very stylish, and the tannins have softened slightly but are still firm and drying. It will continue to develop for several more years. *Charmian Smith, Otago Daily Times*