



MÉRITE

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MÉRITE 2015 Reserve Merlot

Winemaker: Mike Kloak & Colleen Miller

Grape(s): Merlot

GI: Wrattenbully (Limestone Coast, South Australia)

Site(s): Estate vineyards in the Joanna region of Wrattenbully

Vintage notes: Veraison and vintage were one of the earliest on record for Wrattenbully. Cool days and nights during harvest allowed for an elongated harvest, resulting of wines of brightness and expression at lower alcohols. Generally regarded as an exceptional vintage for Wrattenbully.

Vineyard notes: This wine is made from five different merlot clones, planted both on own roots and low-vigour rootstock (rootstock is not used to protect against phylloxera, which isn't present in Wrattenbully, but rather to minimize frost risk and lower yields). Four of the clones are from France, planted in 2006, and represent a style that can be harvested at lower baumé for lower alcohol. Varied top soils, including the terra rossa red, silty clays made famous by neighboring Coonawarra, are over a limestone bedrock. The vineyard sits 110m above sea level, making it the highest planting in Wrattenbully.

Winemaking: Clonal batches were harvested separately and kept independently through the winemaking process until the final blending session. Grapes were sorted via optical berry sorter, crushed, and destemmed. Primary ferment was conducted at 23 ° Celsius. Twice daily pump overs in small batch stainless steel fermenters. After 7 days, ferments were drained, pressed, and racked into barrel. Wine is aged in Sylvain French oak, 40% new, for 18 months. Egg white fined.

Closure: Natural cork (Ref1)

ABV: 14.1%

LEGEND tasting notes: A wine combining elegance, savory notes, and plump fruit character. Flavors of redcurrant, deep black cherry, and bush tomato, with a savory undercurrent of river mint and fern. The palate is juicy and supple, but not dense or weighty. Loads of structure and flavor from oak, but does not overwhelm, just adds complexity. A cellar-worthy wine that delivers a lot of pleasure in the short term.

Production size: 500 dozen

Scores: 93+ (Wine Advocate)