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Sunspell 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon

Grape(s): Cabernet Sauvignon

GI: South Eastern Australia

Site(s): Select sites across Barossa Valley, Coonawarra, and

Riverland

Vintage notes: While the season started with spring rains, very dry subsoils have resulted in yields that are still slightly down on average. But quality is exceptional, with high acidities and peak flavor development.

Vineyard notes: From a selection of sites across South Australia, including Barossa Valley, Coonawarra, and Riverland. Soil types include terra rossa (red clay over limestone), clayloam duplexes, and wind-blown sands over limestone and clay.

Winemaking: All fruit was mechanically picked and destemmed (to remain fair-labor compliant at a lower price-point) throughout March and April 2021. Winemaking took place in stainless steel vats, prioritizing primary fruit and savory qualities over any oak influence. Vegan-friendly.

Closure: Stelvin

ABV: 13.5%

LEGEND tasting notes: A lighter-style cabernet sauvignon, without any of the oak chips and coloring that normally plague affordable cabernet. The nose is a combination of bright and juicy red and black fruits – quandong (a native red peach), black plum, and red currant, as well as subtle savory notes like green pepper, fern, and river mint. The palate belies the bright ruby color, with a fullness and roundness of dark fruit. Acid is bright and tannins are supple, creating a softly drying finish.

Label: Sunspell was developed by Legend founders Jane Lopes and Jonathan Ross. During their travels down under, they saw firsthand that Australia not only produced wine that much of the world has yet to see, but that it was done with respect for both the environment and for the community—and a sense of fun and lightness. Sunspell is a celebration of all those things we think of when we think of Australia: pristine sun-drenched beaches, big surf, fun-loving people. And it's a celebration of all those things that don't come to mind enough when thinking of Australia: fair labor, sensible farming, and delicious wine.

Production size: 2000 dozen

Scores: 88 Points, Best Buy (Wine Enthusiast)