

MÉRITE

reserve cabernet sauvignon 2020



LEGEND
AUSTRALIAN WINE IMPORTS

Winemaker: Mike Kloak & Colleen Miller

Grape(s): Cabernet Sauvignon

GI: Wratttonbully, Limestone Coast

Site(s): Estate vineyards in the Joanna sub-region

Vintage notes: The 2020 vintage will be remembered as a challenging season. It was dominated by fluctuating weather - between cool windy conditions and extreme heat spikes - which has led to one of the lowest crops out of the region in recent times. Despite the tough season, the hard work and effort put in by the growers in the district has paid dividends with very strong and varietal red wines being produced again this season, cabernet sauvignon being the standout.

Vineyard notes: Varied top soils, including the terra rossa red, silty clays made famous by neighboring Coonawarra, over a limestone bedrock. The vineyard sits 110m above sea level, making it the highest planting in Wratttonbully.

Winemaking: Grapes are hand-picked and sorted via an optical berry sorter, crushed and destemmed. Twice daily pumpovers in small batch stainless steel fermenters. After 7 days, ferments were drained and pressed, and racked into barrel. The wine is aged in a combination of Sylvain French oak and Demptos Hungarian oak, 40% new, for 18 months. Egg white fined.

Closure: Cork **ABV:** 15%

Tasting notes: A complex and age-worthy style of cabernet sauvignon, with nuance, structure, and a great Aussie character. Aromas of cinnamon myrtle, vanilla, Dorrigo pepperleaf (a menthol-like native leaf), and black currant. The palate has regal tannins, length, complexity, all built on a midweight and slightly transparent palate. Oak provides polish and seriousness without overwhelming the flavors.

Production size: 80 dozen

Scores: 94, Campbell Mattinson