



2019 Merlot

Accolades

96 Points – Huon Hooke, *The Real Review*
93 Points – 2022 *Halliday Wine Companion*

Vines

Merlot has been part of the Yarra Yering vineyard since the first vines were planted in 1969. The first Merlot vines were interplanted with the No. 1 Cabernet (West End) and in the neighbouring block (Middle East) in 1969 with subsequent plantings made in 1990 (Far East) on the newly acquired neighbouring land.

History

Yarra Yering released possibly the most famous Australian Merlot with the 1990 vintage. At \$100 upon release it created quite a stir. Outrageously priced at the time but it sold out quickly.

Wine

A key component in our flagship blend; Dry Red Wine No. 1, it is difficult in most years to have a single varietal bottling. 2019 sent us good yields and great flavour and so we are able to bottle a small run. Berry compote and cigar box, the softness of Merlot bringing an enticing full fruit palate. Lovely subtle warm woody spices like clove and cardamom adding some complexity and structure. Our cool climate ensuring a lovely acid energy and line.

Winemaking

All hand harvested then the bunches sent across a sorting table, only the very best berries go into this wine. Merlot with whole berry ferments for fragrance and palate flesh. All fermented in half-tonne fermenters and hand plunged twice daily for gentle tannin extraction. French oak maturation in the underground cellar with 30% new barrels for 14 months.

Cellaring

Inherent in Merlot is an approachability and softness, extended cellaring isn't necessary but would be appropriate for up to 10 years with this wine.

14% Alc.