



2012 SMITH & HOOPER RESERVE MERLOT

Ancient and secluded, Wrattenbully is one of Australia's most exciting viticultural discoveries of recent times. Blessed with the celebrated soil profile of terra rossa over limestone, the region is rapidly establishing a high class reputation for wines of depth and elegance.

Soft yet full of flavour, rich and elegant. Wrattenbully Merlot bewitches with its flavour, intensity and opulence. Along with Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot is naturally at home within this young viticultural region in South Australia's Limestone Coast.

VITICULTURE/WINEMAKING

A small section of our Hooper's Vineyard is selected for our Reserve Merlot. The red terra rossa over limestone soil profile and a gently easterly facing slope combine to give a superior terroir for Merlot of outstanding character.

The wine was made from four tonnes of hand picked Merlot that was destemmed without crushing into 30 barriques giving a whole berry ferment. The barrels were placed on rotating cradles that acted as mini rotating fermenters. At the completion of fermentation the barrels were topped up allowing extended maceration, providing a unique bright robust style of wine. The wine was matured in barriques for eight months before final barrel selection and blending.

VINTAGE CONDITIONS

Winter rains gave a full soil moisture profile and was followed by warm conditions during budburst. Temperatures were slightly higher than average during the growing season and a healthy canopy was established. Early warmer summer conditions encouraged an even veraison and then a cooler February slowed down sugar accumulation giving a longer "hang" time. The Merlot grapes from our Reserve block were distinguished by deep colour, plush juicy intense fruit flavours and mature tannins in both the seeds and skins.

WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS

Smith & Hooper Reserve Merlot aromas are composed of briar, savoury and cedar spice characters and a rose petal highlight. The palate is medium to full weight showing red fruits, cedar spice and sweet oak tones. Smith and Hooper Reserve Merlot will cellar for ten years and be drinking at its best in five years. This is a wine to contemplate and enjoy with a vintaged cheddar style cheese.

VINTAGE 2012
REGION WRATTONBULLY
WINEMAKER PETER GAMBETTA
HARVESTED 6 MARCH 2012
ALC/VOL 13.5%
TOTAL ACID 6.0 G/L
PH 3.50

