



VINTAGE 2017

REGION WRATTONBULLY

WINEMAKER NATALIE CLEGHORN

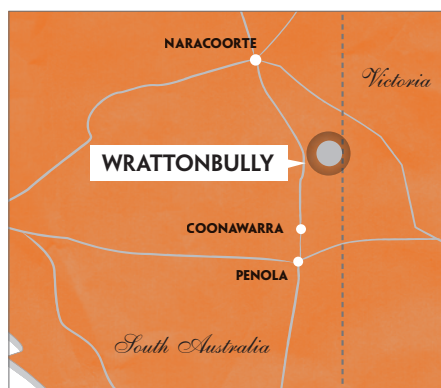
HARVESTED 27TH MARCH

ALC/VOL 14.5%

TOTAL ACID 5.7 G/L

PH 3.57

VEGAN FRIENDLY



2017 SMITH & HOOPER RESERVE MERLOT

Ancient and secluded, Wrattobully 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. Wrattobully Merlot captivates 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

Our Smith's vineyard is home to some of the most exciting clones of Merlot in Australia; the Argentinean sourced 8R and Italian Q45-14. Planted in 2003 we are starting to see the fruit mature beautifully. The use of these clones combined with carefully considered viticulture and winemaking practices are the foundation of this special wine. A large portion of this wine is created by fermenting "berries in the barrel". Three tonnes of handpicked Merlot was destemmed into French barriques without crushing the berries. Whole berry fermentation minimises the tannin extraction and creates a style of Merlot that is powerful yet generous and flavoursome without harsh tannins.

VINTAGE CONDITIONS

The growing season was one of the wettest on record, replenishing the soil moisture content and setting the vines up very well. The wet conditions were capped off by a cooler than average spring and early summer. Temperatures normalized at the start of February, with the ensuing long, cool ripening period resulting in lovely fruit flavours and natural acidity.

WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS

Bright and medium depth in colour with a crimson hue. This unique wine opens with beautiful aromas of cloves, roses, cinnamon and fresh strawberries. There is a savoury lift of wintergreen with a sweet spicy finish reminiscent of Panforte. A complex wine that exhibits intricate flavours. The palate opens with a full burst of mulberry and boysenberry and a hint of vanilla. The wine shows depth, supple velvety tannins and lovely fruit generosity accompanied by intriguing savoury undertones. This is a unique Merlot of great interest that will cellar for ten years. Enjoy with lentil and walnut loaf, roast chicken or contemplate over vintage cheddar.

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