

SIBLING RIVALRY

Cabernet Merlot 2018



Vintage: 2018
Region: Central Victoria
Variety: 65% Cabernet Sauvignon 22% Merlot (Shiraz & Sangiovese used)
Alcohol: 13.5%
Best Consumed: 2019 - 2024

Vineyards:

The fruit was sourced from the Pogue vineyard in Toolamba in the grape growing region of the Goulburn Valley, Central Victoria. Positioned on the banks of the Goulburn River, the vineyard has sandy loam soils and had a moderate to warm growing season. The Pogue vineyard began organic conversion in 2016. These grapes are grown in an environmentally friendly way that takes care of the natural balance in the vineyard and the surrounding area with no use of synthetic fertilizers, herbicides or fungicides.

Vintage Conditions:

The 2018 growing season could well be described as dry and warm, and almost perfect for growing premium wine grapes. The winter of 2017 started with a very dry June and below average rains in July and August. Spring continued the theme with less than half the average long term rainfall, and finished with an unseasonably warm November. Although it remained warm, ripening didn't advance too much faster than harvesting. The reds are bright and varietal, with concentration and depth. It seems that the cooler nights kept a lid on sugar accumulation so that ripening progression was close to perfect, something we usually only see in cooler seasons. 2018 promises to be a very good year.

Winemaking:

The grapes for this blend were harvested in mid-March 2018. Each variety was picked and vinified separately in a fully certified organic winery utilising only certified organic yeasts. Fermentation took place in 150 year old oak open top fermenters. The ferments were pumped over every 12 hours giving the wines a denser, richer colour and flavour whilst ensuring a gentle extraction of tannins. The wines were aged for 18 months in both century old large format oak casks and 2nd and 3rd fill French and American barrels to deliver a fruit dominate style. After a year and a half of maturation the varieties were combined to achieve a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 22% Merlot with Shiraz and Sangiovese used to add complexity and flavour to the blend.

Tasting Notes:

Sowing intense primary berry fruit, rich dark berries, blackcurrants, blackberries, ripe blood plum and a savoury hint of black olive and dried herbs. This wine has well integrated oak which adds notes of vanilla, anise and cinnamon to offer beautiful weight on the palate with lovely fine tannins for a substantial finish.

Food Match:

A perfect match with your favorite charcuterie board to commence your meal or traditional homemade lasagne.