



## PAST VINTAGE CELLARING NOTES CABERNET MERLOT

### 2012

Vintage 2012 was mild and warm with very low yields. Blended from Cabernet Sauvignon (91%) principally from our Avery and Vortmann vineyards, with Merlot (9%) from Rise and Silage. All the fruit for this wine was berry sorted prior to ferment. Matured for 17 months in new and used French oak from Seguin Moreau, Saury and Dargaud and Jaegle prior to bottling in October 2013. Deep red in colour, the nose is plush with round blackberry, elderberry and cassis fruits and toasty oak. The palate is lighter bodied, with soft dark plum, cassis fruit and fine grain tannins.

[Drink or Hold.](#)

### 2011

Blended from Cabernet Sauvignon (85%) with Merlot (11%). Deep red in colour, the nose is complex with dark blackberry, elderberry and cassis fruit and a touch of olive. The palate is medium bodied, with a taught leaner structure dark fruit and firm tannin. The finish is long and textured with fine grainy grape tannins.

[Hold.](#)

### 2010

Deep red in colour, the nose is rich with perfectly ripened dark blackberry, elderberry and cassis fruit. The palate is medium bodied, but intense with coffee and vanilla characters adding to the dark fruit. The finish is long and textured with fine, grainy grape tannins.

[Hold.](#)

### 2009

Medium - dark red colour, purple hue. Composed of Cabernet Sauvignon from Avery and Vortmann vineyards (72%) with an unusually high Merlot component (28%) for this vintage from Rise and Avery Blocks. The nose is complex, with a cooler vintage look fresh cassis with chocolate mint aromas and cedary French oak. The palate is medium bodied, dark elderberry fruit and textured tannin structure, more elegant than previous vintages.

[Drink or Hold.](#)

### 2008

2008 Vintage was hot and dry and this wine reflects this with a riper cassis and blackberry flavour profile and just a touch of liquorice. Blended principally from our Walker and Quarry Cabernet Sauvignon blocks (83%) with the Merlot coming from our single-stake trained vines in our Rise vineyard (17%). Maturation was for 16 months in 50 % new Troncais-Jupilles French oak from St Martin. An excellent Cab Merlot from a vintage which is ripe and intense but retains medium body and balance.

[Hold.](#)

### 2007

The 2007 Cabernet Merlot is dark red in colour with a purple tinge. Very complex nose comprising seaweed, dark berry, fruit cake, cassis and toasty vanillin oak. Now completely integrated. Medium

bodied with rich dark fruit and firm grippy tannins. A cooler expression of this wine reflecting the vintage, with very low Merlot content (6.6%), and a lean/tight structure. Will reward further cellaring. The first Balnaves Cabernet Merlot bottled under screwcap.

Hold.

#### **2006**

The 2006 Cabernet Merlot is deep red with a red tinge. Fleshy nose of dark cassis fruit, fine complex leather and spice notes and integrated vanillin oak. The palate is big and rich with ripe red and black berry flavours, some sweet tarry notes and a sweet berry lingering finish. A ripe year with a small crop and lovely perfume and balance.

Procork.

Drink or Hold.

#### **2005**

The 2005 Cabernet Merlot is incredibly dense in colour, red tinge. Rich and powerful nose dense fruit still somewhat closed. Difficult to describe nose, but very harmonious, balanced and layered with no particular characters standing out. The palate is again rich and very full bodied with fully ripe sweet earth tannins. An outstanding vintage in retrospect, which is developing very slowly.

Procork.

Drink or Hold.

#### **2004**

The 2004 Cabernet Merlot is deep red colour red/brick tinge. Complex nose showing leafy-seaweed cabernet characters again reflecting the very late ripening of the 2004 vintage. The nose also shows some bottle age aromas of cedar and soy sauce. The palate is medium bodied with tannins softened from bottle age and sweet earthy Coonawarra characters developing.

This wine is at a nice stage to drink with both primary fruit and some bottle age development.

Cork.

Drink or Hold.

#### **2002**

The 2002 Balnaves Cabernet Merlot is deep red in colour with bright purple tinge. It has a big nose that is fleshy damson plum fruit and a touch of leaf but appealingly soft. The palate is soft and fleshy with sweet cassis fruit and liquorice with some tarry and malt notes.

Drink now.

#### **2001**

The 2001 Balnaves Cabernet Merlot is deep red in colour with a red tinge. Lifted nose with liquorice, cassis fruit, subtle oak and cream de cassis notes. The palate is medium weight with lean cassis fruit and good length. It is still very tight and closed, needs time to soften.

Drink now.

#### **2000**

The 2000 Balnaves Cabernet Merlot is deep red in colour with a red tint. The nose is sweet with ripe concentrated fruit from the hot summer, roasted nuts and wild blackberry notes. More open and attractive than previous two vintages at this stage. The palate is complex with malt and coffee notes and blackberry fruit. The structure is fine and long. Drinking well now the 2005 are maturing early.

Drink now.

#### **1999**

The 1999 Cabernet Merlot is deep red in colour with a purple tint. The nose is ripe with cassis, fleshy dark prunes very good. The palate is soft with fleshy dark berry fruit and chocolate. It is tight and sinewy, good structure and length. Solid wine.

Drink now.

**1998**

The 1998 Balnaves Cabernet Merlot has deep red in colour and a red tint. The nose is big with sweet with ripe cassis fruit, a touch of cedar and vanilla and damson plum . The palate is rich and solid with big sweet fruit round and soft a very strong wine still evolving solid and rich.

Drink now.

**1997**

The 1997 Cabernet Merlot is mid red in colour with a brick tinge. The nose is lean with black olives, dark fruit, integrated with oak and some linen bottle age characters. The palate is lean with a greener backbone of fruit but still has good cassis mint and malty notes Good length.

Drink now.

**1996**

The 1996 Cabernet Merlot is mid red in colour with a brick tint. The nose is lifted with blackberry fruit mocha oak and dark chocolate. The palate is soft and sweet with good weight and length. Great drinking now.

Drink now.

**1994**

The 1994 Cabernet Merlot is medium red in colour with a brick tinge. The nose is closed with slightly mushroomy notes with sappy, tarry leafy note some cassis still evident. The palate is showing oak dominating and gripping tanning.

Past its best.

**1993**

The 1993 Cabernet Merlot is light to medium red in colour with a brick tinge. The nose is lean, lifted and very leafy with vanillan and sappy notes. The palate is developed and lean but still soft.

Past its best.

**1991**

The 1991 Cabernet Merlot is light/ mid red with a brick tinge. The nose has good intensity with complex mushroom and slight leaf and coconut oil notes. It is still quite fresh with dark fruit and old furniture. The palate is still good and showing tarry jammy fruit and complex sweet soy. At it's best. Starting to dry out on the finish.

Drink now.

**1990**

The 1990 Balnaves Cabernet Merlot is mid red in colour with a brick tinge. The nose is complex showing savory aromas, blackcurrant, soy sauce, ink, cedar and cigar box notes. The palate is slightly sweet fruit with a touch of soy and olive. Good length.

Drink now - won't improve.