



## CABERNET MERLOT



The Balnaves Coonawarra Vineyard was established in 1975, and is situated at the southern end of the Coonawarra Terra Rossa strip. The family has been associated with the district since 1855 and Doug, Annette, Kirsty and Pete Balnaves remain fully committed to a high level of ‘hands-on’ involvement.

Vintage 2017 was outstanding for Merlot with its long cool growing season. Made from 55% Cabernet and 45% Merlot, this is the highest percentage of Merlot we have used in this wine. Matured for 12 months in 30% new French oak.

Deep purple with dense cassis and blackberry fruit, showing fruit purity from a year with no heat events where the cooler fruit flavours can shine. The wine will reward careful cellaring and decanting before drinking.

**Author:** James Halliday

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**Rating:** 95 points

*“55% cabernet sauvignon, 45% merlot. Matured in new (30%) and seasoned French oak. A smooth outcome courtesy of nicely textural merlot fruit boasting the prettiest florals. Strikingly dense purple-garnet hue. Bright juniper berry, cassis notes with the aforementioned roses, violets, potpourri. Melds nicely on the palate with tight-grained oak and highlights of garden mint.*

VINTAGE	2017
VARIETY	Cabernet Sauvignon (55%) Merlot (45%)
REGIONAL BREAKDOWN	Coonawarra
ALC/VOL	14.0%
TOTAL ACID	6.70 g/L
pH	3.40
CLOSURE	Screwcap
CELLARING	20 years
WINEMAKER	Pete Bissell, our current winemaker is now Jacinta Jenkins