

LECONFIELD COONAWARRA 2020 Merlot



2020 Vintage

Colour: Bright garnet

Bouquet: Fine, fragrant nose showing nutmeg and cinnamon spice from oak to enhance the cherry-plum fruits of Merlot.

Palate: Beautifully textured, this elegant Merlot has persistent flavour, silky tannins and round acidity.

Food Suggestions: Shashliks, quail, native Australian inspired cuisine.

Cellaring Potential: Beautifully finessed for youthful enjoyment and well structured for complexity over 8-10 years.



Background

Leconfield is situated in the heart of Australia's famous Coonawarra with its rich Terra Rosa soil over limestone providing the ideal environment for growing premium Cabernet Sauvignon. The vineyard was founded in 1974 by pioneering oenologist Sydney Hamilton who at 76 years of age had the ambition to produce the classic Australian red wine. Today the estate remains a family wine business owned by Dr Richard and Jette Hamilton. The Hamilton family have been growing grapes and wine in Australia since 1837.

Winemakers: Paul Gordon & Greg Foster

Winegrower: Dr Richard Hamilton

Technical Notes

We are fortunate to have mature Merlot vines planted from 1982 to 1999, a significant proportion of which is dry grown. Supporting this fruit is a block of newer clones (R8 and Q45-14) which produce small berry size producing intense colour and a deeper flavour profile. Following fermentation, wines were allowed extended time on skins to gain earthy complexity and palate length. Following pressing and initial settling, the components were filled to French Oak for maturation with two rackings over 14 months to soften the tannin structure. We have avoided the use of animal products in fining to provide a vegan friendly wine. Final blending was in June 2020 with bottling in early July.

Variety: Merlot

Region: Coonawarra

Vine Age: 1982, 1990, 1994 and 1999

Alcohol: 13.5%

Sugar at Picking: 12.7 -13.9° Baumé

PH: 3.6

Acidity: 6.8gms/litre

Residual Sugar: 0.01 gms/litre

Malolactic: 100%

Yeast Type: Saccharomyces cerevisae

Oak Treatment: 18% New French oak, 13% 1 year old French oak, remainder 3-6 year old hogsheads

Vintage Conditions

2020 was a low yielding vintage. Rainfall in both winter and spring rainfall was lower than average. Following a very and dry second half of December, conditions during veraison and ripening were cooler than average and free from extreme temperatures. With March being very dry, and cool, slow ripening saw good natural acidity levels leading up to harvest.

LECONFIELD COONAWARRA

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