



CABERNET MERLOT 2005

BLEND

Cabernet Sauvignon 50%, Merlot 47%, Cabernet Franc 3%

TASTING NOTES

A compelling aroma that has vibrant cherry and dark berry characters with touches of mintiness, dried herb, dark chocolate and vanilla. The aromas are well integrated, balanced and gentle. The palate is medium bodied with upfront plummy sweetness followed by a herbal savoury length. The tannins are fine grained, almost silky in texture. Overall the wine shows good fruit purity, balance and typicity.

WINEMAKING NOTES

Most of our Merlot was quite herbal in 2005, small berries also, so more tannic than is usually expected of Merlot. Its blending partner, Cabernet Sauvignon, came in with lots of dark cherry characters, ripe tannins and sweet fruit. All the fruit was fermented in 4.5 tonne open fermenters with skin contact time between 10 and 15 days. After pressing the wine was sent to French Oak Barriques (10% new) for 18 months. The wine was bottled in February, 2007.

WINEMAKING DATA

Sugar Level at picking: 13 to 13.5 Baume

Wine pH: 3.42

Wine titratable Acidity: 6.2 g/L

Wine Residual Sugar: 0.47g/L

Alcohol: 14.5%

WINEMAKER

Will Shields

ACCOLADES

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ACCOLADES

- SILVER The Royal Perth Wine Show 2007
- Bronze Royal Queensland Wine Show 2008
- Bronze Macquarie Bank Sydney Royal Wine Show 2008
- Bronze Royal Melbourne Wine Show 2007
- Bronze The Royal Adelaide Wine Show 2007
- Bronze Macquarie Bank Sydney Royal Wine Show 2008
- Bronze The Royal Adelaide Wine Show 2008
- Commended International Wine Challenge 2010
- 90/100 James Hallidays 2009 Australian Wine Companion
(4.5 glass rating) “Nicely well pitched and weighted, with supple, silky yet distinctly tangy flavours on the line, light-to medium bodied palate; should please all comers. Screwcap. 14.5% alc. Cellar to 2015.”
- 92/100 Ray Jordan’s WA Wine Guide 2009 (The West - Nov 08)
“The added flesh and aromas of merlot are immediately apparent in this very tidy blend. Leafy and cool on opening with deeper darker fruits lurking in an elegant and long palate. Has some impressive structure to handle a few years in the cellar.”
- 91/100 The Wine Front, Gary Walsh, Feb 2009
“At around \$20 this is the sort of wine I really like drinking, and if I needed to buy a bunch of house wines (with an eye to popping a few away in the cellar for a spell) then I’d say this is just the ticket. It’s a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (50%) and Merlot (47%) with handy old Cabernet Franc filling in the rest. Perfumed and fragrant with gum leaf and gravel over bramble fruit, a lick of vanilla oak and some mint and licorice wafting about. It’s light to medium bodied, firm and shapely with excellent flavour, red fruits, leaf and a light earthiness. Balanced and ridiculously easy to drink its another excellent value offering from this most charming of Margaret River vintages.”
- ★★★★★ Paddy Kendler, Herald Sun, March 2009
“Clairault may not yet be in the prestigious first division of Margaret River wineries, but it’s surely knocking on the door and regularly receives show awards and critical acclaim. As a bonus both the reds and whites are remarkably good value for money. The latest cabernet merlot blend features plenty of dark berry fruit infused with intriguing hints of chocolate, dried herbs, plums and cherries.”
- 88/100 eRobertParker.com-Jay Miller, February 2009

