

# Geoff Merrill

## RESERVE 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon

*"The best barrels of the vintage are selected for our Reserve range and given additional maturation in oak prior to bottling and cellaring."*

### VINTAGE INFORMATION

The lead up to the vintage was actually very good. Soaking rains in winter and into spring and mild temperatures in early summer meant a nice slow accumulation of flavours which we managed to capture in the fruit we took in. During the crucial time for grape growing in McLaren Vale (January to March), we experienced double the average rainfall (55.5mm) with falls for the three months totalling 116.4mm.

The fact is that most wineries released the 2011 vintage too young not allowing these more delicate wines to develop. This 2011 with 7 years maturation is more elegant and European in style. A pleasant surprise which will further bottle age.

### WINEMAKERS NOTES

The colour is a dark brick red with garnet hues and great density. The delicate earthy spices on the aroma come forward first, paving the way for leather, soy and chocolate notes. Bright herbaceous berry fruits peek through the complexity eluding to the development still to come in this youthful cabernet. The palate is fine and bright displaying the strengths of Coonawarra from this cool vintage. Lovely red berries, tomato leaf and leafy herbs are complemented by well integrated American and French oak spice and nutty notes. Fine chocolate tannins and mid palate weight courtesy of McLaren Vale completes this most Cabernet of Cabernets.

### WINEMAKERS

Geoff Merrill & Scott Heidrich

### TECHNICAL DETAILS

**Variety:** Cabernet Sauvignon

**Growing Region:** McLaren Vale 80%, Coonawarra 20%

**Harvest Date:** March 2011

**Oak Handling:** 36 months in American & French oak.

**Alc.** 14.5%, **pH** 3.38, **TA** 7.6 g/L, **RS** 2.9 g/L

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