



ROSS
BAROSSA

2008 BAROSSA CABERNET SAUVIGNON MERLOT

100% Barossa Cabernet Sauvignon & Merlot

Vintage/Vineyard:

The 2008 Vintage started with a cool summer followed by a record heat wave near the end of vintage. All of the grapes for this wine were harvested before this heat wave and hence retained good natural acidity and developed ink like colour. All sections of the vineyard were machine harvested in the cool of the morning to retain freshness in the fruit. The fruit for this wine is sourced from the Ross Family's vineyard in the Foothills just outside the township of Lyndoch. Each block adds its own characteristics to the final blend.

Winemaking:

Once the grapes have been identified to be of optimum ripeness for the style of wine the separate parcels are brought into the winery where they are crushed directly into open top fermenters to which the yeast is added immediately to start the fermentation and remove the chance of any spoilage occurring. The subsequent day, and for a period of 6-10 days following, the fermenting must is hand 'pumped-over' twice a day for varying intervals depending on the extraction of colour and tanning being sought. Just before the wines are considered to be 'dry' the wine is then drained and the skins and pressed in our Air bag Press, which is gentle on the skins resulting in more softer and silkier tannin extraction. The pressing fraction is combined to the drained portion and then transferred into seasoned barrels for maturation. Over the next 15 to 18 months of evolution the wine is raked twice and topped at regular intervals. When the wine is considered to have the optimum balance between fruit and oak integration each barrel is then evaluated and the final blend assembled. The blend receives a polishing filtration and then is bottled on the Winery's own bottling line.

Tasting Evaluation:

The Ross Wines Barossa Cabernet Sauvignon / Merlot is melded to create a seamless blended wine that is soft, juicy and rounded. The nose displays rich forest fruits with savoury spices and undertones of mocha and chocolate. The Cabernet Sauvignon adds the tannin structure and spice to the pallet, and the Merlot the soft berry flavours and rich silkiness to the finish. The use of seasoned barrels has added spice and toast as a complexing component without being dominant characteristics. A great all year choice.

Analysis Post Bottling:

F/T SO₂: 27/102 ppm
pH: 3.42
Acid: 6.7 g/L
Residual Sugar: 1.11 g/L
Alcohol: 14.6 %



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Barossa Valley Way, PO Box 420, LYNDOCH, SA, 5351
P: 08 8524 4033 F: 08 8524 4533 W: rosswines.com E: sales@rosswines.com