

Geoff Merrill

2001 Cabernet Merlot PIMPALA VINEYARD

WINEMAKERS NOTES

This wine can be a little closed immediately after pulling the cork, so offer it some time to breathe and you will be rewarded. Being 7 years old (at the time of writing these notes) there are some wonderful complex developed characters beginning to occur. There is still some quite primary varietal Cabernet aromas coming through, but they soon meld with the seductive chocolate, mint and coffee bouquet which become more evident with time in the glass. The palate has surprising youthfulness in its structure, due to the higher than normal natural tannin and acid from this unique vineyard. It holds the wine together very well and offers up excellent fruit flavours and mouth feel. While this wine is drinking very well now, it will benefit from medium to long term cellaring (6-10 years).

VINTAGE INFORMATION

Very good winter rains ensured the soil moisture was high going into the business end of the growing season. This was quite fortuitous as the conditions throughout ripening were very hot and dry, and through supplemental irrigation the grapes were brought to a good level of ripeness without being over-ripe. Natural tannin levels were good and there was no lack of flavour in the grapes.

To say the least, this wine is very unique. The grapes are grown solely around the historic Mount Hurtle Winery in Woodcroft (once Reynella) and consist of a patch of 'Reynella Clone' Cabernet (an old clone of Cabernet used in this area for a very long time) and a small patch of Merlot. The unique aspect of this blend is that the wine is a 'Vineyard Blend' i.e. they are both picked together and subsequently processed together. Cabernet typically ripens later than Merlot, so it takes some skill as a Winemaker to decide on the picking date in order to optimise the ripening of both varieties.



WINEMAKERS

Geoff Merrill & Scott Heidrich

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Variety Cabernet Sauvignon (60%)
Merlot (40%)

Growing Region Mt Hurtle Winery

Harvest Date April 2001

13.5% alc, pH 3.4 g/L, TA 6.8 g/L



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CABERNET SAUVIGNON
MERLOT

750ml

AL 13.5% VOL