

First Growth is only produced when the growing season is showing exceptional fruit quality and a particular vintage is deemed to have extended aging potential.

Viticulture

The terra rossa over limestone soils of southern Coonawarra have long been a much sought-after location to grow the finest of red grape varieties; the extended ripening period in this area provides wonderful fruit expression, depth and complexity.

Our 'Abbey' estate vineyard is located on this brilliant strip of soil and is predominantly planted to Reynella Selection Cabernet Sauvignon - original cuttings from Bordeaux. These vines, planted in 1985, are the backbone of our First Growth, with a small pocket of estate grown Petit Verdot included in the final 2012 blend.

Winemaking

Following picking, fruit for the 2012 First Growth was fermented in 8 tonne static, closed-top fermenters with parcels undergoing extended maceration time to increase tannin structure. After 30 days on skins the wine was pressed to a prestigious selection of 100% new Chateau Barriques, sourced from renowned Bordeaux cooperages Seguin Moreau and Taransaud.

Malolactic fermentation took place in barrel, with further elevage in oak for 23 months where the fine grained tannins created a tightly structured wine with the potential to improve with correct cellaring in excess of 20 years.

Blend composition: 97% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Petit Verdot

Tasting Notes

Colour: A dark red core with purple rim

Aroma: A perfumed nose bursting with notes of crushed blackberries, smoky cedar and dark chocolate.

Palate: A full bodied palate showing well balanced notes of forest fruits, liquorice and roasted coffee all supported by firm tannins. A dense and tightly structured wine with a long persistent finish.

Analysis

ALC	14%	TA	7.0 g/L
PH	3.51	RS	0.6 g/L
OTHER	Vegan		

