

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 Reynell 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 Merlot included in the final 2013 blend.

Winemaking

Following picking, fruit for the 2013 First Growth was fermented in closed-top fermenters with parcels undergoing extended maceration time to increase tannin structure. After 32 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 24 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: 92% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot

Tasting Notes

Colour: A dark red core with purple rim

Aroma: Complex bouquet of ripe wild berries, a hint of milk chocolate and aromatics from the French oak

Palate: Full-bodied, concentrated mouth-feel. Rich cassis fruit, a touch of minerality and some spice from the French oak, all wrapped up in ripe and fine tannins. Structured and plush; an elegant Cabernet that doesn't lack strength and flavour.

Analysis

ALC	14.5%	TA	6.53 g/L
PH	3.45	RS	0.6 g/L
OTHER	Vegan		

