

# 2014 Terra Rossa Merlot

**PARKER**  
COONAWARRA  
ESTATE

*“A wonderful Merlot vintage showing beautiful fruit expression and length of flavour”*

*Phil Lehmann, Winemaker*

## **Viticulture**

Our Merlot is sourced from the 'Terry' block of the Parker Coonawarra Estate 'Abbey' vineyard. This small 1.5 hectare sub-section was planted in 1985 and continues to produce fruit with intensity of flavour and strong regional character.

Terra Rossa Merlot is made in limited quantities, and only in those vintages deemed to be outstanding. The terra rossa over limestone soil base of our 'Abbey' vineyard consistently produces low yielding vines which result in fruit with piercing flavours and considerable depth.

## **Winemaking**

Maceration of the Merlot grapes began in the vineyard with the use of a Selective Harvester which de-stems the berries as they are picked. The fruit was then fermented in open-top fermenters using a portion of whole bunches; a process that adds complexity and depth to the final blend.

The grapes spent ten days on skins, with regular pump-overs. Post tank pressing, the wine was racked off heavy lees and straight into barrel. Malolactic fermentation took place in 50% new and 50% second-fill French oak barriques over the course of 19 months. The resulting wine has the structure and tannin development to showcase secondary and tertiary ageing qualities.

## **Tasting Notes**

**Colour:** Bright red/purple rim and dark core

**Aroma:** An aromatic nose of mulberry, milk chocolate and a hint of graphite supported by a cherry vanilla oak frame

**Palate:** Generous and velvety palate bursting with ripe plum notes, Christmas fruit cake and a touch of red liquorice. A firm, yet balanced, tannin structure eases into a smooth, lingering finish.

## **Analysis**

|              |       |           |          |
|--------------|-------|-----------|----------|
| <b>ALC</b>   | 14%   | <b>TA</b> | 5.81 g/L |
| <b>PH</b>    | 3.34  | <b>RS</b> | 0.35 g/L |
| <b>OTHER</b> | Vegan |           |          |

