

*Elderton*

## 2024 Barossa Merlot

### History

Until 1992, Elderton had used the small amounts of Merlot produced from the Estate as a blending tool with Cabernet. In 1992, the individual parcel of Merlot was exceptional and the decision was made to make a single varietal that encompassed the best that Merlot had to offer. The Elderton Merlot has been frequently recognised amongst the best Merlots in the country, as well as one of the most consistent.

It is always good when there is nothing extraordinary to report heading into a ripening season, such as was the case leading into 2024 for our Merlot! Decent winter rains and a spring narrowly avoiding hail damage meant we had a healthy crop to ripen with a decent canopy fit for the task. Autumn was long and cool allowing for great flavour development and a lovely freshness in the resulting wine.

### Vineyard Information

Our Nuriootpa vineyard, which is approximately 72 acres in size, has only one small block of Merlot, with newer plantings on either side of the original block. These vines are towards the northern end of the vineyard, on a higher point, where the soils have an increasing clay content with sandy loam.

**Vineyard Source** 100% estate grown, Nuriootpa

**Vine Age** 8 - 20 years

**Picking Date** 8 March 2024



### Winemakers' Comments

*As our Merlot is only a single small parcel we have to carefully choose our harvest date, as we only have one shot at it! Merlot harvest time is similar to Shiraz, it is always a pleasant surprise to taste the fermenting Merlot parcel amongst so much Shiraz. Our Merlot is fermented in open concrete vats before maturation in 100% French seasoned oak for around 14 months give this wine time to come together and take on subtle oak flavour and tannin to build the palate. This Merlot has great fruit vitality with a lovely fine line of tannin to balance which adds a serious note to the finish.*

- Jules Ashmead & Brock Harrison

<b>Style</b>	Medium bodied, vibrant, supple
<b>Colour</b>	Deep crimson
<b>Aroma</b>	Spicy red fruit with a touch of cinnamon
<b>Palate</b>	Punchy red currant, cherry and blackberry notes, peppered with leafy herbal tones and a toasty note balanced with that fruit weight to finish
<b>Oak</b>	Predominantly second fill French puncheons, 14 months
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink now or cellar confidently for 5 —10 years from release
<b>Alc/vol</b>	14.5%



