

# Ribbon Vale Cabernet Sauvignon

**2019**

## 95 POINTS

**Cameron Douglas MS | camdouglasms.com**

December 2021

*Ripe, fruity, varietal and nicely complex bouquet without being overdone. Aromas of black berries and dark plums, violets and dried herb, some tobacco and bell-pepper layers then scents of fresh new wood and mild toasty spices. Equally complex and delicious on the palate with flavours of violets and red berries to reflect the bouquet. Firm tannins and acid line reflect the variety and provide the correct structure for this wine style. Lovely long finish. Best drinking from 2023 through 2035+.*

## 96 POINTS

**Ray Jordan | WA Wine Review 2023**

November 2022

*One of the most refined and elegant of all the Ribbon Vale cabernets I can recall. Like the merlot it doesn't have the opulent flesh of the '18, but instead there is a wonderful velvety smooth palate of bright red fruits working with the deeper blackcurrant of the variety. It is a most complete wine with the influence of supporting cabernet franc, merlot and malbec contributing to that smooth textural palate. Cellar 15 years*

## 4 STARS & 93 POINTS

**James Suckling | jamesuckling.com**

January 2022

*This has a fresh, redcurrant and black-fruit nose with gentle perfume and a pleasingly leafy, spicy edge, too. The palate has elegance with a focused, fine-grained tannin core that delivers fresh red-berry and purple-cherry flavor. Nice definition and very drinkable. Drink over the next five years. Screw cap.*

## 94 POINTS

**Andrew Caillard | Winepilot.com**

June 2023

*Medium deep crimson. Fresh blackcurrant, dark plum aromas with marzipan, herb garden violet notes. Inky deep with juicy blackcurrant, plum, mulberry fruits, fine slinky textures and underlying roasted chestnut, roasted almond notes. Finishes al dente firm with lovely mineral length. Give it another year of bottle age before drinking. A dark horse vintage with lovely transparency and plenty of cellaring potential. Drink 2023 – 2035 91% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Cabernet Franc, 3% Merlot & 3% Malbec.*

## 94 POINTS

**Gary Walsh | The Wine Front**

May 2022

*Nutty, a little honey perfume, red and black fruit, cedar and lemon zest. Medium-bodied, distinct hazelnut and honey thing happening here, and cedar oak, crisp acidity, seaweed and red and black fruit, light grip of furry tannin, mushroom/umami flavours too, and a toasted nut and red fruit finish of good length. Nice wine. Better with a few more years in bottle.*

## 96 POINTS

**Erin Larkin | winecompanion.com.au**

May 2022

*The 2018 Ribbon Vale Cabernet Sauvignon almost had me falling off my chair it was so good. This is no different. Like the '18, it is silky, sumptuous and very fine: red fruited, floral, spicy and shaped by fine, chalky tannins. It is a superstar, and at \$72, a bargain for the quality you receive. If you're a fan of Moss Wood cabernet, this is the wine you should drink while you wait for the MW to come of age.*

## 96 POINTS

### James Halliday | The Weekend Australian Magazine

March 2022 *91% cabernet sauvignon, and 3% each of cabernet franc, merlot and malbec, 28 months in French barriques. The texture and structure are such that the drink-to dates have little meaning. Flavours of olive tapenade, crushed bay leaves and blackcurrant fruits, oak and tannin beholders rather than participants. 14% alc, screwcap*

## 5 STARS & 95 POINTS

### Gabrielle Poy | The Real Review

February 2022 *This needs a swirl or two, it's a little shy from the outset. Then suddenly a whirl of roses, black plums and subtle sweet baking spices emerge. The fruit is poised and wonderfully fresh and there's a graceful air to the palate. It flows across the palate with some pleasing amaro tannins guiding the way. This is an elegant cabernet with a fine yet youthful structure. Its full-bodied warming core has years ahead of it.*

## 5 STARS & 95 POINTS

### Bob Campbell | The Real Review

January 2022 *Hand-picked, destemmed and sorted before being put into open fermenters for hand-plunging three times a day. Spent 18 months in oak. Unfined with sterile filtration. Cabernet sauvignon with 3% each of cabernet franc, merlot and malbec. Cabernet sauvignon varietal character shines through with cassis, black berry, cedar with a touch of mint and a hint of wood smoke. A tight, elegant wine, which promises to reveal even greater complexity with bottle age.*

## 5 STARS

### Fergal Gleeson | Greatwineblog

January 2022 *Moss Wood are one of Australia's masters of Cabernet Sauvignon so a Cab seems like the right wine to finish the reviews of their new releases. The Ribbon Vale 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon was their best yet. 2019 backs it up and delivers on expectations emphatically in this cool vintage edition. Freshness abounds, blackcurrant and tobacco flavours and high quality tannins come through vividly. It's important to note that though Moss Wood Cabernet Sauvignon is the flagship wine in the stable Moss Wood don't think about Ribbon Vale Cabernet as a 'second wine'. It comes from a different vineyard, has a slightly different blend of varieties- Merlot and Cab Franc- but receives similar winemaking techniques. At \$65 retail it's excellent value for the quality. Very enjoyable now but could cellar for 20 years to tease out extra bottle aged flavours. Read my interview with Hugh Mugford, Assistant Winemaker on the greatwineblog website for some more background on all the new releases.*

## 95 POINTS

### Ken Gargett | Wine Pilot

December 2021 *The Ribbon Vale wines always raise the dreaded debate about '2nd labels'. I know that they are not 2nd wines at all, but I am also aware that a lot of winelovers see them as that. The best argument is what is in the bottle and I have no doubt that many wineries would be over the moon if they could offer their 'first label' at this level of quality. Production was very similar to that used for the Merlot, though the Cabernet spent 16 days on skins and 26% of the barrels were new. The final blend is 91% Cabernet Sauvignon and then 3% each of Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Malbec. Colours are crimson, purple and magenta. A gorgeous nose with plums, cassis, mulberries, blackcurrants and cloves with hints of cedar. There is a fine boned structure here with generous flesh and a purity of flavour that is seriously impressive. Excellent focus, silky tannins, brilliant length, with at least a good decade ahead of it. This is a superb RV Cabernet, one of their best.*

## 94 POINTS

### Angus Hughson | Wine Pilot

December 2021 *A real Claret or Bordeaux style here from Moss Wood thanks to its elegance, focus and good structure. Only moderate ruby in colour, yet immediately it shows a crystal clear expression of cool climate Cabernet Sauvignon thanks to fragrant red currant, blackcurrant, leaf and cedar all wrapped up in a gentle blanket of French oak. There is then great tension on the palate between bright acidity, sinewy tannins and savoury dark berry fruits which show exceptional intensity and precision, which drive through to a long and vibrant finish. Balance is also outstanding making for a wine that will offer plenty for at least 15 years.*