

# Ribbon Vale Cabernet Sauvignon

2018



## 97 POINTS

**Ray Jordan | The West Australian**

November 2021 *This is a modern old-world take on sauvignon blanc. There's multiple yeast use in the fermentation and a little oak adding complexity and adding to the interest on the palate. I has about 10 months in oak before bottling, with just a light fining. It's atypical of Aussie savvies and great example of what can be achieved with a little inventiveness.*

## 5 STARS & TOP 25

**Mike Bennie | Wagfg Wine Awards 2021**

November 2021 *WAGFG Awards, 2021 – Brilliant red shining a light on merlot outside monochromatic, plush, plummy styles. Sappy cassis, tomato leaf, raspberry and bay leaf all in play. And though it has medium weight, it feels ultra-savoury, and is cinched with fine, lacy tannins instead of losing form and softening. An old-school feel? Perhaps. And done superbly.*

## 5 STARS

**Fergal Gleeson | Great Wine Blog**

November 2021 *Moss Wood makes a serious Merlot. One of Australia's best in fact. Merlot in this country is usually the minor party in a Cabernet blend or if a single varietal it's usually a 'Tale of Yellowtail' (a mass produced red aimed at novice drinkers). The Moss Wood Ribbon Vale Merlot 2018 continues their fine run. It's full bodied with rich plum fruit but it's in the rumble of tannin, tar and tobacco that the Ribbon Vale Merlot parts company with many others. This is a structured wine and so you could age for 15-20 years comfortably. However the RV Merlot delivers the tannins in a more velvety fashion than many top shelf Cabernets in their youth. Delicious!*

## 92 POINTS & 4 STARS

**James Suckling | jameassuckling.com**

November 2021 *This fresh, mid-weight merlot has good purity, with red plum and mulberry aromas and flavors. The crisp tannins are precisely cut and deliver vibrant res-plum flavours. Give this a year or two. Try from 2024.*

**Marc Malouf | Wine Worth Writing About**

December 2020 *Jewel like deep crimson and a punchy, charred and savoury nose of zingy red berries, blackberry, cherry, plum, dried cranberry, dried olive, chocolate, fresh leather, sweet tobacco and cedar. Potpourri and rose decorates, along with mace, dried bay, mint and orange rind. Quite rustic. In the mouth it has an initial grip of firm, but elegant tannins that give way to an embrace of deliciously juicy, almost cuddly dark berries, plum, blueberry, chocolate and vanilla, backed up by a zing of raspberry/sour cherry acidity and different tight tannins. The oak is a powerful player here, but allows the fruit to lift and carry through. The bulk of the fruit intensity slows at the midpalate and it holds with a mist of dryness and faint stem notes, before a warm heady breath carries cherry, raspberry and plum through a stretching tail. Merlot, so underrated! This particular expression was surprisingly cohesive and settled for a young wine, with a lovely dance between rusticity and elegance. It's juice is pretty cuddly, but some firm tannins and a small amount of Cab Franc brings a chewy edge to it all. A very solid expression of Australian Merlot.*

## 97 POINTS

**Ray Jordan | Wine Pilot**

January 2021 *A vintage that produced some spellbinding wines and this is right up there with some of the best. This is high class merlot displaying power and poise. The structure and combination of oak fruit and tannin is excellent. Leafy merlot with a trace of black fruits and dark plum. The palate has a grainy texture accentuated by the chalky tannins. This is a merlot that makes quite a statement.*

## Edward Agg | Wine Searcher

December 2020 *Moss Wood Merlot 2018, good vintage for Margaret River by all accounts and evidenced on this showing. Rich and concentrated red and black fruits on the nose, dark cherry and raspberry, tobacco-like spice and coffee notes too balance the fruit nicely. Medium+ on the palate, great weight and texture here, with a core of red and black berries interwoven with cedar, cigar box, spice, and grainy tannin. This is a very good Merlot, impressive even.*

## 94 POINTS

### Gary Walsh | The Wine Front

January 2021 *There's 5% Cabernet Franc in the mix, and a modest 15% new oak. New labels too, which are what you might call Margaret meets Bordeaux in style. I like them, as an aside. Well, this is a good expression of Merlot, to be sure. Red and black fruits, coffee bean, a sort of honey/floral perfume, and a bit of tar. It's medium-bodied, has some savoury tobacco and black olive character in with red berries and plum, tannins is fine and powdery, dense and perfectly ripe, some cedar and subtle mint and seaweed flavour comes through on a long finish. Lovely balance. All just so. Svelte. Polished. Really good.*