



Parker Coonawarra Estate

A wine of poised elegance and striking purity, the 2020 95 Block by Parker Coonawarra is a bold expression of Coonawarra terroir blended with heritage Bordeaux clonal material.

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95 Block Cabernet Sauvignon 2020

Coonawarra, Australia

Region and Vineyards

The Parker Estate lies in the heart of Coonawarra, one of Australia's most prestigious regions for Cabernet Sauvignon. Distinguished by its famed *terra rossa* soils—rich, free-draining red clays overlaying limestone—Coonawarra offers an ideal environment for the slow ripening of Cabernet Sauvignon, resulting in wines of concentration, structure, and ageability.

The fruit for this cuvée is sourced from a distinct section of the Abbey estate: the '95 Block'. Planted west of the cellar door, this parcel is home to Reynell selection Cabernet Sauvignon, a rare clone of pre-phyloxera Bordeaux origin. These cuttings, imported into Australia before the phylloxera crisis, offer an extraordinary genetic lineage. A minor but meaningful portion of Petit Verdot from the same block—known for its inky depth and structural backbone—was co-fermented with the Cabernet, adding complexity and finesse.

Winemaking

The 2020 vintage in Coonawarra was marked by moderate yields and excellent fruit quality. Harvested on 17 April, the grapes underwent fermentation in a 9-tonne closed static fermenter over 10 days. The must then remained on skins for a further 30 days of extended maceration, enhancing tannin integration and depth of color—key to the wine's longevity and elegance.

Following malolactic fermentation in stainless steel, the wine was matured for 19 months in 50% new French oak barriques, predominantly from Taransaud and Seguin Moreau. This high proportion of new oak imbued the wine with fine-grained tannins and structural refinement, perfectly balancing the vivid fruit core. The final blend is composed of **91% Cabernet Sauvignon and 9% Petit Verdot**.

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 91% Cabernet
Sauvignon, 9% Petit Verdot



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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep dark red with vibrant purple hues, signaling youth and concentration.
- **Aroma:** An enticing bouquet of blackcurrant, herbal tea, and floral lift; pristine fruit purity with nuances of violets and subtle oak spice.
- **Palate:** Juicy red fruits—blackberry and raspberry—unfold with freshness and vibrancy. The palate is tightly woven with grippy, youthful tannins and a lively acid backbone. The texture is fine and elegant, finishing with impressive length and poise.

Did you know?

The Reynell selection of Cabernet Sauvignon, used in this wine, is among Australia's oldest clonal materials. Originally brought from Bordeaux before the advent of phylloxera, these vines were lost in France but preserved in South Australia. This makes the 95 Block a living link to Bordeaux's viticultural heritage—a rare historical continuity now expressed in modern Australian winemaking.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled lamb rack with rosemary and garlic:** The wine's tannic grip and herbal lift make it a stellar match for rich lamb cuts.
- **Beef Wellington:** The wine's depth and structure complement the earthy mushroom duxelles and flaky pastry.
- **Aged cheddar or Comté:** These firm cheeses echo the wine's structure and highlight its dark fruit core.
- **Duck breast with blackberry jus:** The berry-driven palate of the wine harmonizes beautifully with fruit-accented game dishes.



Robert Parker (RP) : 93 Points (2020)

The 2020 95 Block is both minty and floral on the nose, with violets and cassis, red earth and mint fondant, resin and char. All things in equal measure here, the wine is both powerful and balanced. Again, as with one of the other Terra Rossa wines tasted today, the acidity feels a little pinched through the finish, but otherwise the wine feels as if it will age very well. The tannins tell that story, as does the fruit. This matured for 19 months in French oak, 50% new. 14.5% alcohol, sealed under screw cap.



James Halliday (JH) : 95 Points (2019)

88/12% cabernet/petit verdot; 28 days on skins, matured for 18 months in French oak (60% new). This is quite a potent amount of petit verdot – as little as 1-2% can be perceived in the glass. Here, it transforms the aromas into a decidedly blue space – blueberries, potpourri, lavender, and mulberries. In the mouth, the wine is velvety, cushioned and plush ... it's just wonderful. It is big and concentrated, but there's a cooling, graphite quality to the tannins that elevate it right out of the park – you've got to wait for this to emerge through the finish. Make sure you do. Awesome. Drink by 2037.



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