Parker Coonawarra Estate

A flagship wine from Coonawarra, the 2019 First Growth embodies purity, structure, and longevity , showcasing the region's finest terroir and clonal heritage.

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Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

First Growth Cabernet Sauvignon 2019

Coonawarra, Australia

Region and Vineyards

The 2019 First Growth is rooted in the celebrated *terra rossa* soils of **Coonawarra**, in South Australia's Limestone Coast. This narrow strip of vivid red clay atop calcareous subsoils is renowned for producing some of the world's most age-worthy Cabernet Sauvignon. The cool maritime-influenced climate promotes slow, even ripening, preserving vibrant acidity and varietal purity.

The fruit is sourced exclusively from the **'Abbey' estate vineyard**, planted predominantly with **Reynell Selection Cabernet Sauvignon**, a rare pre-phylloxera clone originating from Bordeaux. These vines, established in 1985, are now mature and deeply rooted, yielding low but intensely flavoured berries. The site's ideal exposition and soil profile contribute to wines of both concentration and refined structure.

Winemaking

Harvested in April 2019, the grapes underwent an extended maceration process in a 9-tonne closed static fermenter. Following an 11-day fermentation, the must remained on skins for a total of 38 days. This approach fosters profound **tannin integration**, enhancing the wine's **ageing potential** and textural complexity.

Post fermentation, the wine was transferred to **80% new French oak barriques**, sourced from the prestigious cooperages **Saury Bordeaux, Seguin Moreau, and D'Aquitaine**. After 18 months' maturation in oak, the wine emerged with polished tannins, an elegant oak framework, and a finely layered structure destined to evolve for **over two decades** in the cellar.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep red with vibrant crimson hues.
- **Aroma**: Intense notes of cassis, dark berries, and cigar box, layered with savoury and herbal nuances. Vibrant and complex.
- **Palate**: Medium-bodied yet powerful, with a core of blackcurrant, dark cherry, and bay leaf. Oak is seamlessly integrated, lending spice and structure. The wine is tightly coiled with fine acidity and great persistence, showing both elegance and longevity.

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First Growth Cabernet Sauvignon 2019

Did you know?

The **Reynell Selection**, used exclusively in this wine, descends from original Bordeaux cuttings imported into South Australia in the 19th century. These clones, once lost to phylloxera in France, now flourish in Coonawarra, preserving a **genetic heritage nearly extinct in their native region**.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Dry-aged ribeye steak with chimichurri**: The wine's structure and cassis core perfectly complement rich, grilled beef.
- **Roast venison with blackberry jus**: The wild game and berry reduction echo the wine's dark fruit profile and herbal lift.
- **Beef bourguignon**: The depth of flavour and savoury notes in the dish mirror the wine's layered complexity.
- **Mature Gouda or aged Manchego**: Firm cheeses with umami intensity enhance the First Growth's tannins and spice.

Robert Parker (RP) : 94 Points (2019)

The 2019 First Growth Cabernet Sauvignon is leafy and minty and earthy; it speaks of gravel and iodine, black pudding and dried herbs, layers of dark chocolate, raw cocoa and cassis. It is rustic and quite light in the mouth but also intense. The pleasing claret-like aesthetic indicates a future of length and grace. It feels as if it could only come from Coonawarra. 14.5% alcohol, sealed under screw cap.