

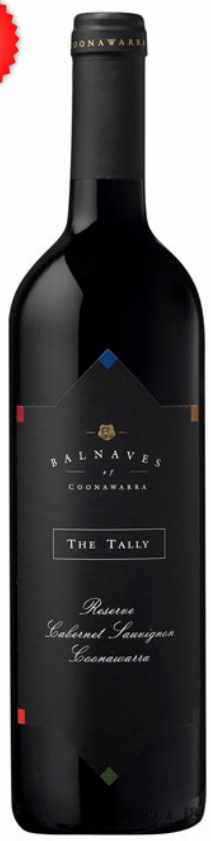
Balnaves

A flagship expression from Coonawarra, The Tally 2018 delivers deep concentration and elegance, a tribute to both terroir and tradition, crafted with patience and precision.

The Tally Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2018

Coonawarra, Australia

96 James Halliday



Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 92% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Petit Verdot

Region and Vineyards

Coonawarra, in South Australia, is celebrated for its distinctive **terra rossa soils** over limestone, a narrow strip of land that produces some of Australia's most acclaimed Cabernet Sauvignon. The region benefits from a cool maritime climate influenced by the Southern Ocean, bringing long ripening periods that ensure grapes develop **intense aromatics and fine tannin structures**.

The fruit for The Tally comes primarily from the **Dead Morris vineyard**, planted on classic terra rossa soil. This site consistently yields grapes of exceptional concentration and balance. Coonawarra's well-drained soils and moderate climate allow Cabernet Sauvignon to thrive, producing wines that marry **power with elegance**, marked by cassis, mint, and earthy complexity.

Winemaking

The 2018 vintage was warm and relatively early, with dry conditions ensuring **fully matured tannins**. Grapes were hand-picked from the Dead Morris vineyard (92% Cabernet Sauvignon) and co-fermented with **8% Petit Verdot** from Dunstan. After a 10-day fermentation, the wine underwent an **extended maceration of 16 days**, extracting depth of flavor and tannin finesse.

The wine was then matured for **15 months in very fine-grain Taransaud Château barriques**, with **40% new oak**. This élevage imparted subtle spice, coffee, and dark chocolate notes while preserving the purity of fruit. The careful integration of oak and long maceration lends The Tally 2018 both **longevity and layered complexity**.

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep, vibrant red with a youthful purple rim.
- **Aroma:** Lifted red and black fruits with cassis, blackberry, and plum, intertwined with spice, forest floor, and leafy complexity. Subtle hints of coffee, dark chocolate, mint, and hazelnut emerge with aeration.
- **Palate:** Medium to full-bodied with concentrated black fruits, fine-grained tannins, and gravelly texture. Elegant yet powerful, with freshness and balance leading to a **long, supple finish**.

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Did you know?

The name "The Tally" pays homage to **Doug Balnaves' past as a Merino sheep shearer**. In shearing, the tally book recorded the number of sheep shorn in a set time, a measure of skill and endurance. For the Balnaves family, this wine represents their own ultimate achievement — a benchmark of dedication and craft.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled ribeye steak:** The wine's firm tannins and dark fruit intensity perfectly match the richness and char of beef.
- **Roast lamb with rosemary and garlic:** Herbal notes in the wine echo the dish's aromatics, while the supple finish complements the meat's texture.
- **Duck breast with cherry glaze:** The vibrant acidity and red fruit undertones balance the sweetness of the glaze and the richness of duck.
- **Aged cheddar or pecorino:** The firm tannic backbone and complex flavors integrate beautifully with robust cheeses.



James Halliday (JH) : 96 Points (2018)

A magnificent Tally. The fruit has a great depth of flavour and the X-factor that any Reserve should. Deep and fragrant, with a brightness of fruit not always obvious in this flagship. Coffee grounds and dark chocolate, studded with mint and hazelnuts. Fuller bodied with fine, gravelly tannins that give texture as much as definition. It needs more time but, wow, it will reward big time!



Robert Parker (RP) : 94 Points (2018)

The 2018 The Tally Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon is led in majority by Cabernet Sauvignon (92%), with the balance made up of Petit Verdot. The wine was matured in French oak for 15 months (40% new). This has all of the density of tannin one expects from premium Coonawarra Cabernet, along with lifted violets, fine mineral graphite characters and loads of blue fruits. It is very spicy and good, but svelte too. I love the chew through the finish. It is long and lean.