



# Balnaves

Balnaves Cabernet Sauvignon - Merlot is a refined blend, showcasing dark fruit, firm structure, and a touch of elegance from Coonawarra's renowned terroir.



## Cabernet Sauvignon - Merlot 2020

Coonawarra, Australia

### Region and Vineyards

The **Coonawarra region** in South Australia is distinguished by its iconic **terra rossa soils**, layered over limestone, which provide excellent drainage and ideal conditions for bold, structured wines. The climate here is cool, allowing for a long growing season that preserves acidity and enables grapes to reach optimal ripeness. Balnaves' vineyards, established in **1975** at the southern end of the terra rossa strip, span **58 hectares**, with **70% dedicated to Cabernet Sauvignon**. In the **2020 vintage**, cool spring weather and some early frosts led to a late start, while warm days around Christmas advanced ripening, resulting in wines with vibrant intensity and well-developed tannins.

The vines used in this blend, aged between **12 and 22 years**, benefit from precise management, with each hectare-sized block tailored for specific needs based on soil and microclimate. This careful block management, along with limited irrigation, allows Balnaves to capture the essence of Coonawarra's terroir and produce wines with depth and clarity.

### Winemaking

The grapes for Balnaves Cabernet Sauvignon - Merlot 2020 were **destemmed and sorted** before fermentation, ensuring only the highest-quality fruit was used. Following fermentation, the wine was aged for **12 months in 46% new French oak barrels**, adding subtle vanilla and spice complexity without overwhelming the fruit. This precise oak selection complements the wine's natural tannic structure and depth, creating a wine that is both balanced and powerful.

The wine's **alcohol content is 14.5%**, with a **pH of 3.46** and **acidity of 5.9 g/L**, providing a solid foundation for both early enjoyment and extended aging potential.

### Tasting Notes

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot

- **Color:** Deep ruby with purple hints, indicating concentration and youth.
- **Aroma:** Aromas of dark fruit, blackcurrant, and subtle seaweed notes, with hints of vanilla from the oak aging.
- **Palate:** Rich with blackcurrant and dark berry flavors, complemented by firm but supple tannins and a long, balanced finish.



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## Did You Know?

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Balnaves, a family-run vineyard since **1975**, not only produces its own wines but also manages an additional 300 hectares in the heart of Coonawarra. Their expertise in block management allows them to produce premium wines that fully express the unique terroir of each parcel within the region.

## Wine Pairing Ideas

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- **Grilled Steak with Peppercorn Sauce:** The wine's dark fruit and firm tannins complement the richness of the steak, while its structure balances the peppery sauce.
- **Lamb Tagine with Prunes and Almonds:** The tannins and fruit of the wine highlight the savory-sweet elements of lamb and dried fruits.
- **Mature Cheddar Cheese:** The bold flavors and structure of the wine pair harmoniously with the sharpness of aged cheddar.
- **Vegetarian Mushroom and Lentil Stew:** Earthy flavors resonate with the wine's complexity and dark fruit profile.



### Robert Parker (RP) : **88 Points** (2020)

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*This 2020 Cabernet Merlot is leafy and minty on the nose with cocoa, cassis and dark chocolate. In the mouth, the wine is talc-y and soft and propped up more by tannin than fruit, looking for a little more of that beautiful fruit, actually. The wine has a dilute feeling in the mid-palate.*



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