

## 2020 Barossa Merlot

### History

Until 1992, Elderton had used the small amounts of Merlot produced from the Estate as a blending tool with Cabernet. In 1992, the individual parcel of Merlot was exceptional and the decision was made to make a single varietal that encompassed the best that Merlot had to offer. The Elderton Merlot has been frequently recognised amongst the best Merlots in the country, as well as one of the most consistent. In 2020 we harvested a small volume from our new plantings of Merlot in Nuriootpa. We are excited to see the quality of this new Merlot parcel as it comes into production.

### Vineyard Information

Our Nuriootpa vineyard, which is approximately 72 acres in size, has only one small block of Merlot, and two new parcels which will begin bearing from 2020. These vines are towards the back of the vineyard, on the highest point, where the soils are much sandier and free-draining than those closer to the river bed. We also source fruit from Light Pass.

### Winemaker's Comments

*Welcome rain leading into spring signalled a big relief from a dry and frosted 2019 vintage. We did head into vintage 2020 knowing we only had a small amount of fruit to play with, however the long and dry conditions of 2020 growing season meant that our crop load was even smaller than predicted! We watched very carefully as the small berries approached ripeness aiming for ample fresh fruit to balance the tannin profile in our Merlot. This wine is powerful, with some serious tannin to balance the fruit power of any normal vintage. We fermented our tiny volume in a picking bin, using a combination of pump overs and plunging gently to ensure careful fruit and flavour extraction with gentle tannins to balance.*

- Jules Ashmead & Brock Harrison

<b>Style</b>	Medium bodied, classic, structured yet supple
<b>Colour</b>	Deep crimson
<b>Aroma</b>	Plum, red berries, spice
<b>Palate</b>	Red fruits, spice and vanilla with lingering powdery tannins
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink now or cellar confidently for 5 - 10 years from vintage



### Barossa Merlot 2020

**Vineyard Source** 66% Light Pass,  
34% estate grown, Nuriootpa

**Vine Age** 4 - 16 years

**Picking Date** 16 March 2020

**Oak** Predominantly second fill French puncheons  
and hogheads, 16 months

**Alc/Vol** 14.2%