

Mount Horrocks,  
**Clare Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2020**  
Clare Valley, South Australia, Australia

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Grape Varieties	<b>100% Cabernet Sauvignon</b>
Winemaker	<b>Stephanie Toole</b>
Closure	<b>Screwcap</b>
ABV	<b>14.3%</b>
Bottle Sizes	<b>75cl</b>

## PRODUCER

Mount Horrocks Wines, in Clare Valley, is owned by winemaker Stephanie Toole, who purchased the estate in 1993 after a career selling fine wines in Perth. By April 1998, she had renovated the historic Auburn Railway station as her cellar door and by 2000 she had acquired land in Watervale to plant her own vineyards. The grape varieties are carefully matched to each site's soil and microclimate. These include the 'Cordon Cut' vineyard, close to the cellar door, which has been planted only with Riesling. The 'Alexander' vineyard at Watervale is planted with just Shiraz, while the 'Watervale' vineyard boasts Riesling, Semillon, Nero d'Avola and Cabernet Sauvignon. Mount Horrocks is certified organic and biodynamic. Meticulous vineyard management and no-compromise winemaking sets Mount Horrocks Wines apart from the status quo. To quote James Halliday's 2023 Wine Companion, "Stephanie Toole has never deviated from the pursuit of excellence in the vineyard and winery. The attention to detail and refusal to cut corners are obvious in all her wines."

## VINEYARDS

The Cabernet Sauvignon is picked by hand from Mount Horrocks' single vineyard in the cooler Watervale sub-region of the Clare Valley. The fruit is grown organically from low-yielding vines.

## VINTAGE

Clare Valley experienced another dry growing season. Rainfall in winter was below average, so the soil moisture remained low. There was some frost in October and wind during flowering in November, which slowed ripening. Fortunately, Mount Horrocks was not affected by the fires and smoke taint. The quality of the fruit in 2020 was excellent.

## VINIFICATION

Hand-picked from Stephanie's low yielding vineyard, the grapes were fermented in open top fermenters. The ferment was gently plunged 3-4 times a day. A gentle pressing followed fermentation before the wine then spent 18 months ageing in French oak barriques, of which 35% were new.

## TASTING NOTES

The wine has a great depth of colour. Classic Cabernet aromas of black currant and herb with a hint of green leaf. A wine of great concentration, with fine-grained stylish tannins, lovely oak integration and tremendous length of flavour. The wine is composed and elegant on the finish.