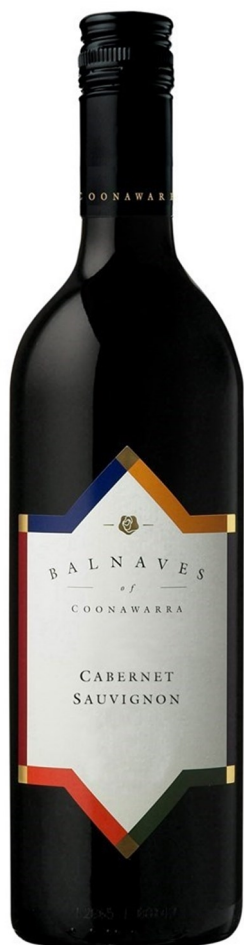


Balnaves,
Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon 2020
Coonawarra, South Australia, Australia



Grape Varieties **89% Cabernet Sauvignon**
11% Petit Verdot

Winemaker **Pete Bissell**

Closure **Screwcap**

ABV **14.5%**

Acidity **6.1g/L**

Wine pH **3.41**

Bottle Sizes **75cl**

Notes **Vegetarian**

PRODUCER

The Balnaves family vineyard is situated at the southern end of the famous Coonawarra Terra Rossa strip. Planted in 1975, the vineyard is now 58 hectares in size (70% of which is planted with Cabernet Sauvignon) and has been in the family for three generations. Doug, together with his son Pete and daughter Kirsty, runs the Balnaves vineyard while managing another 300 hectares for other growers in the heart of Coonawarra. Balnaves' fruit has always been excellent, but they did not make their own wine until 1995 when they hired Pete Bissell (ex-Wynns) as their winemaker and started work on their winery. Pete retired in June 2020 though he still works with Balnaves as consultant winemaker, alongside Jacinta Jenkins. The Balnaves' vineyard is divided into small blocks, between one and two hectares in size, which are managed separately according to the specific needs of each area.

VINEYARDS

The Balnaves Coonawarra Vineyard was established in 1975, and is situated at the southern end of the Coonawarra Terra Rossa strip. The family, which has been associated with the district since 1855, remains fully committed to a high level of 'hands-on' involvement. The grapes for this wine come from a mix of the Dead Morris (89%) and Walker vineyards.

VINTAGE

The season started late, and frosts caused some concern, resulting in irrigation early in the season. Cool and humid weather in the spring disrupted flowering, particularly affecting the Cabernet Sauvignon yields. Several days above 40 in late December sped up ripening and cooler temperatures near harvest extended this ripening period. As a result, the red grapes developed thicker skins, and yields were moderate, resulting in small quantities of vibrant, intensely flavoured wines with fine tannic structure. Though the 2020 growing season was plagued by wildfires, the Balnaves vineyards escaped unscathed, resulting in no influence of smoke taint.

VINIFICATION

Only the best Cabernet Sauvignon grapes were selected to make this wine. They were then co-fermented with 11% Petit Verdot, with an extended maceration on skins, prior to maturing for 13 months in 54% new French oak. The wine was bottled in October 2021.

TASTING NOTES

A vibrant hue and lifted violet perfume lead to an intense palate of mulberry fruit. Subtle, smoky French oak balances the plush fruit, while complex, chewy tannins provide structure.