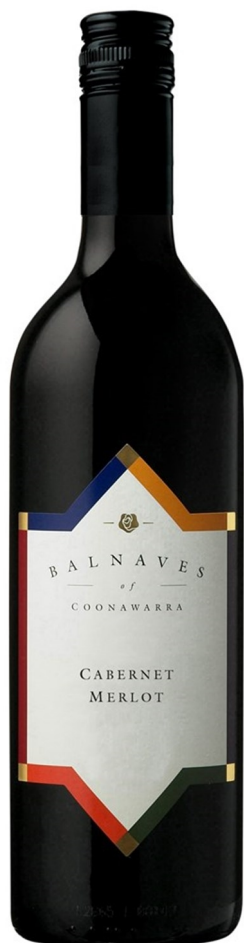


Balnaves,  
**Coonawarra Cabernet/Merlot 2021**  
Coonawarra, South Australia, Australia



### 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

Balnaves' 35 hectares of Cabernet Sauvignon vineyards are split into sub blocks (some only one hectare in area), on the basis of soil type, clone variation, trellis type etc. This enables them to adopt different treatments for these smaller areas. Although Balnaves have the ability to irrigate all their vineyards, at least one third has not been irrigated for five years. The vines used for this blend are between 12 and 22 years old, and are trained on a single wire.

### VINTAGE

The growing season for the 2021 vintage began with cooler temperatures but no frost events. As spring arrived, warm weather resulted in an easy, fast, and even flowering with no disease pressure. Summer was mild which created a long and slow ripening period, with some warmer days which assisted tannin ripeness. The resulting wines have excellent colour, depth, and flavour intensity.

### VINIFICATION

The fruit was destemmed and sorted prior to fermentation. Following fermentation, the wine was matured for 13 months in 20% new French oak prior to bottling.

### TASTING NOTES

Red fruit, liquorice and vanilla on the nose. On the palate, dark plum and sage flavours mingle with well integrated tannins and subtle oak complexity.

Grape Varieties	<b>88% Cabernet Sauvignon</b> <b>10% Merlot</b> <b>2% Petit Verdot</b>
Winemaker	<b>Pete Bissell &amp; Jacinta Jenkins</b>
Closure	<b>Screwcap</b>
ABV	<b>14%</b>
Residual Sugar	<b>0.8g/L</b>
Acidity	<b>5.32g/L</b>
Wine pH	<b>3.48</b>
Bottle Sizes	<b>75cl</b>
Notes	<b>Vegetarian</b>