



# PEPPER TREE

‘8R’

## SINGLE VINEYARD 2017 Wrattenbully Merlot

*8R Merlot is sourced off our Wrattenbully Vineyard on the Limestone Coast. This clone has only recently been introduced into Australia and is selected for its flavours and fine tannins and produces the best Merlot parcels from the vineyard. We have separated the fruit from this block as it shows more flavour and intensity with excellent structure.*

Beautiful rich soft Merlot characteristics with a firm structure. The palate is loaded with clean red fruit flavours and great texture from maturation in fine French oak.

Head Winemaker, Gwyn Olsen

### VINTAGE

Good winter and spring rains were accompanied by cool spring weather which led to a late budburst. The soil moisture produced good early season growth but flowering and then veraison were both late following on from the late budburst. Ripening occurred in relatively cool conditions leading to the latest harvest for many years. Pinot Gris and Chardonnay were picked in late March with good acid balance and flavour. Merlot and Tempranillo followed in early April in ideal cool dry conditions and both varieties produced very good wines. Our top Cabernet blocks were picked by April 19th with good flavour ripeness and acidity. Intermittent cool rainy weather then set in for the last 10 days of April causing problems for most South Australian areas. The majority of our grapes were picked before the rain and early indications are for wines of excellent quality and balance.

### APPELLATION / GI

Wrattenbully (South Australia) 100%

### WINEMAKING

This single block wine was harvested in two separate picks and fermented in static fermenters. Once primary and secondary ferment finished, the resulting wine was pressed off skins and put to French oak barriques (25% new). Left for 20 months, the resulting wines were selected for blending and wine prepared for bottling.

### VINEYARD

Wrattenbully is located in the Limestone Coast wine zone. The prominent viticultural feature of the area is the series of ancient beach ridges and dunes which run roughly north-south through the area. These ridges are made up of soft crumbly limestone which weathers to produce the red and brown Terra Rossa clay loam soils so highly prized for grape growing. The ridges and dunes have elevations of up to 30m compared with the neighbouring regions to the south with a Terra Rossa 'high' of less than 5m. The extra elevation on the Wrattenbully dunes produce the advantage of cold air drainage which reduces the risk of frost during the growing season.

#### TECHNICAL INFORMATION:

BLEND:	Merlot (100%)
BOTTLING DATE:	12/2018
BOTTLE NUMBER RANGE:	1 - 3645
PH:	3.47
TA:	6.6g/l
ALC/VOL:	14.1%
STANDARD DRINKS:	8.3



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