



# PEPPER TREE

‘8R’

## SINGLE VINEYARD 2018 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

Our 2018 growing season got off to an unfortunate start with a severe frost in early November wiping out 75% of our crop. Conditions for the rest of the year remained favourable and the reduced crops ripened fully with very good tannin structures. Merlot had the best flavours we have seen from this vineyard and our 8R Merlot should be outstanding. Small parcels of handpicked Shiraz and Cabernet have produced excellent single vineyard wines.

In summary, very small crops but outstanding quality.

### 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.

### 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.

#### TECHNICAL INFORMATION:

BLEND:	Merlot (100%)
BOTTLING DATE:	12/2019
BOTTLE NUMBER RANGE:	1 - 3590
PH:	3.56
TA:	6.5g/l
ALC/VOL:	14.2%
STANDARD DRINKS:	8.4

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### 2021 HALLIDAY WINE COMPANION

Terrific merlot. Flavoursome, characterful, structured and sustained. The wealth of blackcurrant, the choc-mint notes, the wide spread of dusty tannin, the inherent juiciness. Once sip and you're hooked. It will cellar like a charm but it offers irresistible drinking right now.

### THE WINE FRONT - 94+ POINTS

Mike Bennie - tasted September 2020

Here's merlot to write home about. The perfume is so pretty, floral, almost violet and mulberry, white pepper, eucalyptus and brambly berries – flavours go this route too. So good. Texture is supple then succulent, feels all very clean, fruity, bright and juicy, nice web of ultra fine tannins tightens gently, a layer of spice lingers in the tug of final tannin pucker. Flavoursome and complex, a lush style but with everything taut around the generosity. Very good.