



BlackJack 2010 Cabernet Merlot

VINEYARD & VINTAGE

Blackjack Vineyards is situated on an easterly slope, in the old apple-and-pear-growing district of the Harcourt Valley in the foothills of Mt Alexander. Although just south of Bendigo, the climate is considerably cooler, and normally blessed with “Indian Summer” autumns — cool nights and warm clear days — allowing the grapes to slowly ripen. Vintage typically occurs in late April to early May. The soil are mostly very old, and not overly fertile, granitic soils, although part of Block 6 is on what we call Castlemaine sandstone gravel. The vineyard is hand pruned and hand harvested. The cabernet block was planted in 1989.

A warm-to-hot summer was punctuated by more significant rainfall than we’d had for the previous few years, but it was well timed and didn’t have any adverse effects on fruit quality. All fruit harvested was in excellent condition, with absolutely no disease issues.

It was a comfortable vintage that started in early April and ran for a couple of weeks. Yields were pretty much average.

WINEMAKING

Fermented in traditional open fermenters, hand plunged, and aged in French oak barriques (about a third new) for 22 months. No finings and minimal filtration at bottling.

TASTING

Our 2010 Cabernet Merlot is perhaps a more elegant wine in comparison to the more robust Blackjack cabernets of the past few years but still shows the awesome concentration and balance that the estate wines deliver.

The aromatics reveal a sea of red fruits, with raspberries and red currants abounding, a hint of dark chocolate and oak spice, as well as a dried-herb character. The palate is incredibly soft, round and supple, with ripe tannins and a solid core of concentrated berry fruits lasting long in the mouth. A classic example of the Australian cabernet merlot style that will work with or without food.

ANALYSIS

Harvested: April 2010

90 per cent cabernet sauvignon; 10 per cent merlot

Bottled: March 2012

pH: 3.60

Acidity: 6.3g/L

Volatile Acidity: 0.59g/L

Alcohol: 14.0 per cent

DISTRIBUTORS:

Vintners

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BlackJack Vineyards

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