



Riversdale

'Riversdale' is the name of the original homestead on our Frankland River vineyard. It was built in 1932 by Fred Hadley, a military surgeon settling here after an eventful life that took him from England to Africa and Australia.

The front label illustration was painted by him in 1937, from a vantage point on the farm across the river owned by my wife Edwina Egerton-Warburton's family.

We feel very fortunate to call Riversdale our home today.

2021 Merlot Cabernet Franc

THE VINTAGE:

An exceptional vintage with rainfall falling at just the right times, Rieslings are some of the best in recent memory with expression of floral aromas and balanced acidities. Cabernet and Shiraz from Frankland are exceptional with tannin and colour. Chardonnay and Pinot from the sub-region of Porongurup are exceptional examples.

THE WINEMAKING:

This blend is composed of 60% Merlot 181 and 40% Cabernet Franc 332, both of which are made using newly imported clones we believe to be the future for Bordeaux-styled wines. Hand-picked and meticulously sorted, the grapes were held on skins for 6 weeks to complete malolactic fermentation. Following malolactic fermentation, the wines were matured in 1 and 2 year old French oak barrels for 10 months before bottling. Minimal sulphites and additives were used during winemaking.

THE WINE:

Deep garnet hue, with a vibrant intensity. Aromas of ripe blackberries and plum from the Merlot clone 181, complimented by the lifted notes of violets and a touch of bay leaf typical of the Cabernet Franc clone 332. Delicate undertones of fresh tobacco leaf, cedar, and subtle spices. The wine is rich and plush. The Merlot provides a succulent core of red and black fruits, while the Cabernet Franc adds complexity with layers of black tea, graphite, and a hint of forest floor. The well-integrated tannins are velvety and soft. A long finish with traces of dark chocolate, dried herbs, and hints of spicy oak. This blend showcases the perfect marriage between the plushness of Merlot and the structural elegance of Cabernet.

Vineyard Riversdale
 Year Planted 1997
 Location Frankland River
 Vines per Hectare 1650
 Irrigation Yes
 Clone/s Roche, 191, 337
 Rootstock Own
 Aspect Northern facing
 Soils Deep gravels over clay

Origin Riversdale
 Variety Merlot 60%, Cabernet Franc 40%
 Picking date April 2021
 Sugar at picking 14.0 °Baume
 Alcohol 14.5%
 pH 3.30
 Total acidity 6.95 g/L
 Residual sugar 2 g/L
 Bottled April 2023

Vegan N/A
 Vegetarian N/A
 Organic N/A
 Biodynamic N/A
 Allergens Low Sulphites