



*Botham*

## TASTING NOTES

### The Botham 80 Series Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon 2018

#### **Vintage Conditions**

2018 provided the ideal conditions to produce outstanding quality reds in Coonawarra. Above average rainfall in winter and spring ensured the vines had a good start to the growing season. Conditions in November and December that were about 2°C higher than average but without extremes, allowed for quick, uniform flowering providing good and very even fruit set. Compared with the averages, the period from December to February was slightly warmer and rainfall about 50% less inducing veraison about two weeks early. March was blissful with moderate temperatures and minimal rainfall ideal for ripening. The first of the Cabernet Sauvignon was harvested in the last week of March and completed by mid-April. With moderate yields and even, gradual ripening, excellent quality has been ensured.

#### **Vineyards**

This wine is sourced from vineyards in Coonawarra, 400 km south-east of Adelaide in South Australia. The region is famed for its Terra Rossa soil of red-brown clay loam over limestone. Together with the climate that is ameliorated in summer from the cooling effects of the Southern ocean, the terroir provides outstanding conditions for premium white and red wines. Vines are trained on a single wire trellis and hand pruned to produce the moderate cropping levels required for consistently high quality.

#### **Winemaking Notes**

The key to the quality of this wine is in the decision on when flavours are optimal for harvest. We look for ripe cassis flavours, with fine tannins and mature brown seeds which will eventually help build structure in the wine. Fruit commences its journey to wine through fermentation on skins in a range of small stainless steel fermenters to gently extract the colour and fruit flavours until all of the sugar is consumed and some parcels are left to gain extra complexity. Following pressing and racking, French oak then plays its part in adding an extra dimension to the fruit, during which the wine clarifies slowly to allow the remaining yeast to aid in building palate structure.

#### **Wine Style**

We strive for a round, richly flavoured wine in which the oak provides a more subliminal, but complexing, role to the purity of the fruit.

#### **Colour**

Full, bright ruby garnet red.

#### **Nose**

A lovely wine to savour in the glass. Nuances of dark plum, cassis, cherry and earthy black olive with an aromatic background of cedar provide a concentrated complexity to the bouquet.

#### **Palate**

The palate shows the joy of Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon. The aromas hinted through the nose materialise on the tongue and combine with the round palate texture and silky tannins to give richness and persistence. Medium to full bodied in style, the wine has a balanced, soft acidity.

#### **Wine Analyses**

Alcohol 14%  
pH 3.63  
Acidity 6.2 g/l

#### **Peak Drinking**

This wine has been crafted to be enjoyed in its youth where it shows its beautiful fruit, but will also reward 5-7 years of maturation for extra complexity.

