



Made by Rolf Binder
Barossa Valley



2018 STELZER ROAD MERLOT

100% BAROSSA VALLEY, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Story:

The Hahn family were among the original pioneers to the Barossa Valley, and began growing grapes in 1845. In 1997 a partnership was formed between 6th generation family custodians (James & Jackie Hahn) and Barossa winemaker, Rolf Binder, to produce the JJ Hahn range of wines. The range now encompasses small volumes of red wines, intended to be extremely good value and enjoyable to drink. Wines are now crafted using fruit from a unique and expressive 'old vine' vineyard in various sub regions of the Barossa, owned, managed and worked solely by the Binder family.

The Vintage:

After reasonable winter and spring rainfall, soil moisture was adequate during the 2018 growing season and the Barossa's vineyards were exhibiting healthy canopies heading into summer. Jan and Feb were warm and dry, with very warm temperatures in Feb slowing down the pace of ripening, allowing good flavour to develop more slowly. The warm, dry Summer extended throughout the harvest season until the end of April. Overall yields were 10-20% down, but quality high.

The Winemaking:

This fruit is from a combination of Binder Estate vineyards in various sub regions of the Barossa Valley, as well as a small percentage of cooler climate fruit sourced from a grower in Eden Valley. Once picked, the grape parcels are fermented in open fermenters with use of heading down boards for optimal extraction for 7 days. The wine is then pumped into French (70%) and American (30%) oak barrels to mature for 10 months before final blending and bottling.

The Taste and Experience:

This Merlot has a rich deep purple colour, indicative of the variety.

The nose displays hints of stewed plums, perfumed violets, cinnamon and cassis.

The palate is ripe with intense sweet concentrated fruit which This is a bright and juicy wine with hallmark varietal flavours of stewed plums and blackcurrant, and hints of spice such as clove and cinnamon. It's a soft, easy drinking wine with a long persistence of flavour on the finish, supported by plush tannins. Vibrant and fruit intense when consumed younger but the wine can be enjoyed over the next 5-8 years.

The Analysis:

Alcohol: 14.1%

Acid: 6.74

pH: 3.45

Oak:

70/30 mix of French and American 300lt Hogsheads

