

Katnook Estate wines are remarkably suited to cellaring with their complex flavour profile and great tannin structure, both of which ensure longevity.

When a wine is first released, it will be remembered for the flavours and character it exhibits in youth. However devotees cellar Katnook wines to enjoy the additional complexities which derive from careful bottle ageing.

I have had the enjoyable role of recently reviewing all Katnook Estate Cabernet Sauvignon vintages from 1980 to 2011 and my notes on their current status are reproduced here.



Wayne Stehbens Senior Winemaker, 2013.

Katnook lies in the heart of Coonawarra, Australia's distinguished Cabernet wine region. Rich in history and tradition, Katnook's vineyards span 198 hectares of renowned terra rossa soil and were established in 1971. Coonawarra is known for its long but cool hours of sunshine during ripening, which allows grapes to develop intense flavour whilst retaining good acid levels.

Since 1979 Wayne Stehbens has led the winemaking team, originally under the guidance of his father Ray Stehbens. When describing his winemaking style, Wayne says, "I aim to make wines which show subtlety, intrigue and complexity. Reflecting the essence of Coonawarra's terroir is integral to my winemaking approach". With two prestigious Jimmy Watson trophies to his credit and a leading role in the Coonawarra Vignerons Association, Wayne continues to be an influential advocate for the region.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

2010 Vintage

Gold Medal International Wine Challenge 2013.

95 Points, James Halliday Wine Companion 2014.

Number One Wine, Top 100 Reds, Ray Jordan 2013.

2006 Vintage

Gold Medal, Hong Kong International Wine & Spirit Competition 2009.

Gold Medal, Royal Melbourne Wine Show 2012.

2005 Vintage

Gold Medal, Japan Wine Challenge 2008.

2002 Vintage

Gold Medal, International Wine Challenge 2005.

Gold Medal, Japan Wine Challenge 2004.

2001 Vintage

Gold Medal, International Wine Challenge 2004.

Gold Medal, Japan Wine Challenge 2004.

Langton's Classification V (since 2005) Distinguished Classification

"The Distinguished category comprises old and new classic ultra-fine Australian wine. Many have a longstanding reputation for consistency and longevity".



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Katnook Estate
CELEBRATING
30 CABERNET
YEARS OF SAUVIGNON

30 VINTAGES
1980 - 2011

www.katnookestate.com.au

30 VINTAGES OF KATNOOK ESTATE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Year	Vintage Conditions	Winemaker's Notes	Halliday Rating	Year	Vintage Conditions	Winemaker's Notes	Halliday Rating	Year	Vintage Conditions	Winemaker's Notes	Halliday Rating
1980	Excellent. Warm and sunny with low rainfall.	Leather, cigar box, rich fruit characters.	92 Points	1992	Excellent. Mild and dry with a little late rain.	Medium bodied berry and cedar characters.	92 Points	2003	Very similar to 2002 vintage conditions with just below average temperatures and generally dry.	Low yields and excellent quality – ripe, intense flavours with fine balance.	93 Points
1981	Good. Warm and late rain.	Subdued mint with tobacco and earthy characters.	89 Points	1993	Good, wet and windy spring. Above average rain in summer. Warm, dry autumn.	Complex berries, cedar, liquorice and green olive flavours.	88 Points	2004	Excellent. Long growing season, average yields and cool, dry conditions.	Wines of depth with attractive ripe characters and generous tannins.	92 Points
1982	Outstanding. Warm to hot with a little late rain.	Medium bodied with cassis, great length and power.	96 Points	1994	Good. Cool, dry conditions. Late harvest.	Sweet fruit and some herbaceousness.	88 Points	2005	Outstanding. Rich and generous due to the warm season.	Excellent colour, abundant ripe fruit and fine, lingering tannins.	96 Points
1983	Average. Difficult vintage. Adverse weather before and during harvest. (Severe bushfires in SA and VIC).	Wine subdued in flavour and matured very early.	Not Rated	1995	Average. Frosts, cool weather, strong winds, late harvest.	Cigar box, leafy characters of medium palate weight.	86 Points	2006	Very good – excellent. An early and low yielding vintage. Above average temperatures during ripening.	Generous palate structure with ripe, varietal fruit flavours.	90 Points
1984	Average. Mild summer, rain in January. Early harvest.	Dusty/earthy notes with prunes and mulberry flavours.	86 Points	1996	Good. Early frost. Cool, dry summer with late rain.	Typical Coonawarra berry and leaf flavours and excellent balance.	88 Points	2007	No wine made.		
1985	Good. Mild season, good spring rain.	Leathery characters and medium body fruit weight.	88 Points	1997	Excellent. Warm, dry summer, very cool autumn. Late harvest.	Intense flavours and wonderful balance.	92 Points	2008	Extreme heat wave in March led to an early harvest with remarkably high maturities, colour and tannin.	High praise, showing intense, ripe flavours and tannin.	92 Points
1986	Outstanding. Good spring rain, warm dry summer.	Firm structure and good length and tannins.	96 Points	1998	Outstanding. Optimum conditions. Warm growing season with below average rainfall.	Wines are characterised by generosity and ripeness of flavour beautifully balanced with robust tannins.	96 Points	2009	Excellent. A mild vintage apart from 4 days of extreme heat just before harvest.	Outstanding colour, ripe generous flavours and fine lingering tannins.	92 Points
1987	Average. Difficult season with frosts and cool windy conditions.	Medium weight wine with assertive tannins.	86 Points	1999	Excellent. Very dry apart from some rain in early March.	Wines have pure flavours and fine balance.	92 Points	2010	Outstanding. One of the earliest and best vintages on record. Below average rainfall and above average temperatures lead to an early harvest.	Wines show intense colour and flavour with fine grain tannins – great longevity.	95 Points
1988	Good. Severe November frosts, mild to warm conditions.	Savoury style with sweet fruit and tobacco.	88 Points	2000	Very good. A very dry vintage.	Wines show good palate depth and structure with ripe tannins and fruit flavours.	90 Points	2011	A challenging growing season with above average rainfall during summer which extended into harvest.	Medium bodied with varietal berry and savoury notes.	
1989	No wine made.			2001	Good. A somewhat challenging vintage following mid-season rain.	Good varietal flavours and palate depth, considering the conditions.	88 Points				
1990	Excellent. Ideal conditions. Mild to warm and dry with a little late rain.	Chocolate and mocha flavour complexities in the final wines.	92 Points	2002	Excellent. One of the latest, driest, low yielding vintages on record.	Generous fruit and mid palate structure.	93 Points				