

On the Coonawarra plain, winemaker Wayne Stehbens enjoys an excellent reputation. This very good Coonawarra Merlot 2005 deserves a mention for its overall balance. Not particularly giving or original, true, but its soft, fruity style and its sweet, integrated tannins have a certain charm. (translated).

"What Merlot should taste like"

Max Crus, Daily Examiner NSW, 24/05/2008

This is what merlot should taste like, or at least what a lot of other merlots wished they tasted like? 8.7/10.

2004

"4.5 stars"

James Halliday, Australian Wine Companion 2008

Shows strong varietal character throughout in an olive/ cedar/ spice spectrum; medium- bodied, with fine, silky tannins and a long finish. 90 points. 4.5 stars.

"cracker from Coonawarra"

Kerry Skinner, Illawarra Mercury, 27/09/2006

If you're mad on merlot then you'll need to go a long way to find a better offering than this cracker from Coonawarra. Winemaker Wayne Stehbens has a soft spot for merlot and has put together a superbly structured wine, supple and soft with upfront berry and plum fruit flavours, some background spiciness, nicely balanced oak and silky tannins. Drink it with braised duck.

"excellent depth"

John Fordham, Sunday Telegraph, 24/09/2006

Katnook Estate 2004 Merlot goes a long way to showcasing merlot's often concealed class as a stand-alone wine. Its flavours are ripe, spicy and inviting, with excellent depth and earthiness.

"far too delicious for words"

Matthew Jukes, 100 Best Australian Wines 2007

This is a laser-guided Merlot, with textbook redcurrant purity. There is also a wondrous creamy fruit note that evokes memories of homemade summer pudding with whipped cream. Far too delicious for words, this is a wine that should only have been bottled in magnums

"ripe, racy, spicy and inviting"

John Fordham, Highlife Magazine

Katnook Estate's Merlot goes a long way to showcasing merlot's often concealed class as a stand-alone wine. Its flavours are ripe, racy, spicy and inviting, with excellent depth and earthiness. Like earlier releases, it's also soft and smooth, a factor that will find strong flavour with female consumers.

"simply awesome"

MX, 04/12/2006

Simply awesome. Smells like a herb garden with added oak. Smooth and complex taste that just goes on forever. When Melbourne's weather next takes a turn for the worse (and let's face it, that's often, even in December) settle on to the couch and enjoy this one while you watch the world go by.