

FOUNDER'S BLOCK

Cabernet Sauvignon 2016

Awards

Silver medal	2019 Decanter Asia Wine Awards (Hong Kong)
Silver medal	2018 Decanter Asia Wine Awards (Hong Kong)
Bronze medal	2019 Decanter World Wine Awards (UK)

Reviews

Tony Love, Herald Sun (Melbourne), October 2018

A genuine Coonawarra cabernet experience for \$20? You bet. Pour first into a jug or carafe, give it a swirl and 15 minutes of airing, then just breathe in its varietal and regional notes — dark chocolate and mint, black plums and berries, even some chocolate biscuit richness as you taste. It's all there as well as Coonawarra cabernet's tell-tale dusty, sandy mouthfeel.

FOUNDER'S BLOCK

Cabernet Sauvignon 2015

Awards

Gold medal	2017 Decanter Asia Wine Awards (Hong Kong)
Silver medal	2017 International Wine Challenge (UK)
Silver medal	2017 International Wine & Spirits Competition (UK)
Commended	2018 International Wine Challenge (UK)

Reviews

Matthew Dukes (Matthewdukes.com) November 2018

Katnook chief-winemaker, Wayne Stehbens, passed away last year and this pioneering chap was one of Australia's great wine heroes. A rich cassis mid-palate is augmented with mint and eucalypt tones which makes this a quintessential Coonawarra Cabernet. This wine is a classic Wayne creation and it is spectacular with the Rumpsteak Grille Béarnaise with Petits Pois à la Française recipe.

James Halliday, Halliday Wine Companion 2019 (Australia), August 2018

88 points

All about the fruit. Curranty flavour with a splash of herbs; no real sign of oak. It's mid-weight with a slight dip to the mid-palate and assertive tannin to close. 88 points. Drink by 2024.

Regan Drew, Vinonotebook (Online), 26th November 2017

Lovely garnet colour in the glass. Subtle nose of blackcurrant, plum and easy bramble with earthy undertones. Perfectly medium bodied, well balanced with mulberry and blackberry fruits held in restraint with elegant tannin. Finishes with a kiss of mint that serves as the signature. Proves yet again this label over delivers for the price.

John Lewis, Newcastle Herald (Australia), 18th November 2017

My three reviews today are written with much sadness because Wayne Stehbens (above), the man who produced the wines and some of Coonawarra's greatest reds, died suddenly on November 5 and his funeral was held on Tuesday. Wayne, 62, was senior winemaker for the Katnook Estate brand and a past-president of the Coonawarra Vignerons' Association. He was one of Australia's longest serving winemakers and his 38-year career made him a Coonawarra institution. This great-value cabernet sauvignon has 13.5 per cent alcohol, bright garnet hues and berry pastille aromas. It zips onto the front palate with juicy blackberry flavour and rhubarb, mint, herbs and mocha oak chime in on the middle palate. Dusty tannins feature at the finish.

FOUNDER'S BLOCK

Cabernet Sauvignon 2014

Awards

Silver medal	2015 Irish Wine Show (Ireland)
Bronze medal	2017 The Asian Cabernet Sauvignon Masters (Hong Kong)
Bronze medal	2016 Hong Kong International Wine & Spirit Competition (Hong Kong)
Bronze medal	2016 Japan Wine Challenge (JPN)
Bronze medal	2016 International Wine & Spirit Competition (UK)
Bronze medal	2016 Global Cabernet Sauvignon Masters (UK)
Bronze medal	2016 International Wine Challenge (UK)
Commended	2017 Decanter World Wine Awards (UK)
Commended	2016 Decanter Asia Wine Awards (Hong Kong)

Reviews

James Halliday, *Halliday Wine Companion 2018, August 2017*

89 points

The flavours dip slightly through the mid-palate but this is otherwise a reliable serving of blackcurrant, mint and briar-like flavour, its various components needing a little more time to properly knit. Drink by 2023. 89 points.

Joe Czerwinski, *Wine Enthusiast Buying Guide (USA), April 2017*

90 points

It's been some time since Katnook last submitted samples, so it's reassuring to see that quality there remains high. This medium-bodied Cabernet boasts crisp acids and fine tannins, highlighting notes of red currants, olives and bay leaves. Drink now–2025.

Tim Appelt, *www.winediscovery.ca (Canada), April 2017*

88 points

This is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon from Coonawarra vineyards of the original founder of Katnook, John Riddoch. The wine is moderately deep red, with a narrow lighter red rim. Exuberant aromas of black currant, blackberry and mint, with a hint of chocolate underneath. The wine is dry, with fresh acidity, balanced alcohol, and firm, drying tannins. The ripe fruit and herbs take on a spicy note, and the fruit lingers on the finish. Take a sniff – to me, this really says "Australia" from a certain time and place.

WineLife Magazine (Netherlands), October 2016

4 stars rating - highly recommended

Sylvester Stallone style: masculine and muscled! Full bodied, ripe blackberries and bramble, minty, coffee, smoked bacon and spices. With its huge concentration a perfect wine to drink with a grilled or barbecued meat.

Katnook

FOUNDER'S BLOCK

Peter Chapman, APN Newspapers (Australia), 13 July 2016

93 points

At \$20 a great buying bold red that will win a lot of friends. Ripe and rich plums dominate a wine that you can put on the table with confidence. FOOD: Pork RATING: 93/100

www.onceuponawine.blogspot.com.au (Australia), 2 July 2016

The Katnook Founder's Block Cabernet Sauvignon 2014 is a great example of a cool climate Cabernet Sauvignon. This wine has blackcurrant and blackberry fruit flavours. Nice depth and length. Good value for money at only \$20 a bottle. Can be enjoyed now or cellared for up to 5 years.

Chris Shanahan, Sunday Canberra Times (Australia), 19 June 2016

Katnook's wine connection dates from Coonawarra's first vintage, when industry founder, John Riddoch, processed his 1896 vintage in Katnook's woolshed. Though now part of Spain's Freixenet Group, Katnook wines continue to be made by Wayne Stehbens who had his first vintage there in 1979. Coonawarra's second-largest producer shows its class and versatility with this pure and solid expression of the regional cabernet style. It combines cassis and black olive-like varietal fruit flavours on a medium-bodied palate, but through the variety's assertive, firm tannins. It's a roast lamb or steak wine for sure and very satisfying.

FOUNDER'S BLOCK

Cabernet Sauvignon 2013

Awards

Silver medal	2015 Hong Kong International Wine & Spirits Competition (Hong Kong)
Silver medal	2015 Japan Wine Challenge (Japan)
Silver medal	2015 New World Wine Awards (New Zealand)
Silver medal	2015 Decanter World Wine Awards 2015 (UK)
Bronze medal	2015 Decanter Asia Wine Awards (Hong Kong)
Bronze medal	2015 International Wine & Spirits Competition (UK)
Bronze medal	2015 International Wine Challenge (UK)

Reviews

Reece Leing, Expatriate Lifestyle (Malaysia), October 2016

The 2013 Katnook Founder's Block Cabernet Sauvignon has fine tannins and flavours of vanilla, mocha and black berries. Cool air from the Southern Ocean slows down the growing season to produce elegant fruit. Sip this everyday drinking wine of 13.5 per cent alcohol (that is: not too complicated) with red meat but especially with lamb and mint sauce or with a hard cheese like vintage Cheddars. Many also like to match it with dark chocolate. Identify the blackcurrant nose and then taste sweet berries on the palate, which have been mellowed by some time in oak barrels.

Jane McQuitty MW, The Times London (UK), April 2016

Australia's answer to the Médoc is this bold cedary, minty cabernet from Coonawarra's famous terra rossa soil.

Food and Drink Chicago Website (USA), 13 December 2015

The Katnook Estate Founder's Block Cabernet 2013 is a lovely, medium-bodied wine, with a refined nose of red berries, violets and hints of mint. It will make any meal special – pasta, red meats, quail, and smoky or spicy flavours.

Matthew Jukes, matthewjukes.com.au (UK), 11 December 2015

I think that this is one of the most elegant and complex Coonawarra Cabernets around and it is also stunning value. Katnook winemaker Wayne Stehbens has been a pal of mine for 30 years and he always delivers the goods. This is a lovely wine with roast lamb or roast beef, so plan ahead for Sunday and you are in for a real treat

Mathew Jukes, www.matthewjukes.com (UK), 9 October 2015

Katnook will not mind me mentioning the fact that Founder's Block is not one of the more expensive wines in their portfolio. I rarely talk about price when explaining my thoughts behind wines because I feel that it is more about the flavour, how a wine makes you feel and what you should do with it! However, I have made an exception here because the epic balance and freshness in this bright Coonawarra Cab nothing short of captivating and it is done with so much value and style I am truly astonished. Class and refinement combined with a stunning price tag is a very rare commodity.

Regan Drew, vinonotebook.com (Australia), 5 August 2015

This is the entry level for Katnook and a reliable choice. Purple flowers, Violets, plums, mint and a full core of blackberry. Soft dark fruits fit perfectly like a pair of old trackie dacks. Regional leafiness and plenty of soft tannins with minimal oak influence complete the package. Feels comfortable and familiar. For \$20 (or under if on special) this is hard to beat.

Katnook

FOUNDER'S BLOCK

James Halliday, Wine Companion 2016 (Australia), 1 August 2015

92 points

Cabernet with its dancing shoes on. This is an enjoyable wine to be around. It's fleet-footed, almost frisky, with boysenberry and violets, blackcurrant and bay leaf notes washing fleshily through the palate.

Toni Patterson MW, Better Homes and Gardens (Australia), 1 July 2015

Terrific value from the famous Coonawarra red soil. Intense, rich red flavours in a refined mouthful.

Mike Bennie, Winefront (Australia), 30 June 2015

92 points

Red fruits, tomato leaf, dried herbs, Aussie bush character – quite a good start to the wine. Has a freshish, fleshy feel but maintains medium body, fine sandy tannins and succulence of acidity. Trim, quite sophisticated feel in a way. Lunchtime Claret with a bit of rustic charm. Like this personality – authentic.

Winsor Dobbin, Ciao Magazine (Australia), 22 May 2015

You won't find many better wines for \$20 than this excellent cabernet from one of the finest makers in Coonawarra. Founder's Block may be the entry-level label for Katnook Estate but this is a very classy wine with blackcurrant, plum and mint notes typical of the region. There is minimal oak influence but an impressive tannin structure that suggests this will cellar well over five years or so. It is brilliant drinking on release, however I wouldn't wait.

David Ellis, Weekend Weekender Penrith (Australia), 8 May 2015

Katnook in South Australia's Coonawarra launched their Founder's Block range in 2005, and in the decade since it's become their biggest selling wine – a just released 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon a further great example of just why. For here's a medium-bodied wine that's got wonderfully classic Cabernet Sauvignon mint and blackcurrant to the fore, and with accompanying fine tannins... and interestingly came from a vintage that got off to an early start after good Winter rainfalls in 2012 led into a warm and dry Spring. Priced at \$20, with those minty and blackcurrant flavours it's a great one to enjoy with roast lamb, or even something with a suggestion of spiciness to it.

John Rozentals, Illawarra Mercury (Australia), 28 March 2015

Katnook's biggest selling wine is into its ninth vintage here and certainly offers an excellent expression of Coonawarra cabernet at an affordable price. It has a touch of varietal and regional mintiness that makes it a perfect match for lamb.

Des Houghton, Courier Mail (Australia), 5 March 2015

The Founder's Cabernet, launched in 2005, is now Katnook's biggest-selling wine. The 2013 offers the reliable Coonawarra fruit flavour at an affordable price for drinking in the short term. Coonawarra is 380km southeast of Adelaide where the cool climate and red soil produce cabernets with intense cassis flavours.

**FOUNDER'S
BLOCK**

Cabernet Sauvignon 2012

Awards

Silver medal	2015 Global Cabernet Sauvignon Masters (UK)
Silver medal	2014 International Wine & Spirits Competition (UK)
Bronze medal	2014 Decanter Asia Wine Awards (Hong Kong)
Bronze medal	2014 Hong Kong International Wine & Spirits Competition (Hong Kong)

Reviews

James Halliday, *Wine Companion 2016 (Australia)*, 1 August 2015

92 points

It suggests at cabernet's noted aristocracy but mostly it nods at drinkability. This is a pitch-perfect example of affordable, good-to- drink, varietally true cabernet. Blackcurrant, boysenberry, chicory and dried herbs, with modest input from coffee-cream oak.

Campbell Mattison, *Winefront (Australia)*, 11 January 2015

91 points

This 2012 is in the groove. Currently, fresh, easy to drink and easy to like. Boysenberried liveliness meets dried herbs, chicory and coffee-cream. It's well-balanced too. A lot to like. Rated : 91 Points

Winestate National (Australia), 1 December 2014

Olives and licorice on the nose with a touch of violets. Soft, rich, fruity palate nicely evolved and ready for drinking.

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FOUNDER'S
BLOCK

Cabernet Sauvignon 2011

Awards

Silver medal 2013 International Wine & Spirit Competition (UK)

Reviews

Lisa Perrotti-Brown, eRobertParker.com (USA), February 2014

86 points

Medium garnet-purple in colour, the 2011 Katnook Founder's Block Cabernet Sauvignon shows bright aromas of cassis, blackberry and red currant allied to hints of bay leaf. The crisp and light to medium-bodied frame features a medium level of chewy tannins, a decent concentration of fruit and a medium-long finish. Drink it now to 2017. 86 points

Ballarat Courier (Australia), 12 October 2013

This is quintessential Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon. Supple, medium bodied wine with elegant aromas of red berries, violets and hints of mint. Well proportioned with generous fruit and a persistent finish. An easy partner to a wide range of foods including pasta, red meats, quail and spicy dishes.

Ballarat Courier (Australia), 21 September 2013

A lovely big dark red colour with some hints of purple stare at you from the glass and give you great berry and oak notes to tease the nose. On the palate you get lots of plum and vanillian characters mixed with ripe berry flavours.

FOUNDER'S BLOCK

Cabernet Sauvignon 2010

Awards

Silver medal	2012 International Wine & Spirits Competition (UK)
Bronze medal	2013 Decanter Asia Wine Awards (Hong Kong)
Bronze medal	2012 Japan Wine Challenge (Japan)
Commended	2012 Decanter Asia Wine Awards (Hong Kong)

Reviews

Sam Wylie-Harris, Launceston Examiner (Australia), 9 November 2013

Dark and intense with a beguiling blackcurrant and mulberry fruit and fine-grained tannins, this wine is drinking beautifully.

Ballarat Courier (Australia), 31 August 2013

A lovely big dark red colour with some hints of purple stare at you from the glass and give you great berry and oak notes to tease the nose. On the palate you get lots of plum and vanillian characters mixed with ripe berry flavours.

UK Tatler (UK), July 2013

A fruit driven Cabernet Sauvignon from Coonawarra in Australia with a wash of blackberries, dark plums and blackcurrant fruit and a hint of cool-climate mint. Great with grilled steak or rustic pizza.

Ballarat Courier (Australia), 9 February 2013

A lovely big, dark red colour with some hints of purple stare at you from the glass and give you great berry and oak notes to tease the nose. Katnook Founders Block Cabernet Sauvignon has a nice touch of oak that mellows towards the end of the palate and has a nice lingering taste for you to enjoy.

Jane Strode, Australian House and Garden (Australia), October 2012

When dining on grilled lamb chops with broad bean vinaigrette suggest this wine as a great match.

Selector Magazine (Australia), 1 October 2012

Deep ruby red with opaque tinges, the 2010 Cabernet delivers blackcurrant and raspberry aromas with lifted mint characters. The small amount of oak maturation lends subtle notes of toast and sweet spice to the fruit aromas. The intense palate is layered with flavours of berry fruit and light oak. Dark berries, plum and hints of mulberry characters are complemented by classic Coonawarra mint. Fine grained tannins complete the wine.

John Lewis, Newcastle Herald, 12th September 2012.

4 & ½ glasses

Here's terrific value from the Coonawarra Katnook arm of the Wingara Wine Group. It is deep purple in the glass, has scents of berry pastille and tar, and zips on to the front palate with sweet blackberry flavour. Briar, mint and liquorice fruit characters integrate with savoury oak on the middle palate, and dusty tannin hold sway at the finish. Katnook, along with the Deakin Estate and Riddoch brands, are 100 per cent owned by Spain's giant Freixenet sparkling wine group. DRINK WITH: veal and olive ragu. AGEING: six years RATING: four and a half glasses.

Katnook

FOUNDER'S
BLOCK

Kerry Skinner, Illawarra Mercury (Australia), 6th September 2012

Quality Coonawarra cabernet. Medium bodied, blackberry and cherry fruit profile, a hint of mint, spicy characters and nicely balanced oak.

Nick Stock, Madison (Australia), August 2012

From Australia's premier red-wine region comes this supple, medium bodied drop. It features the elegant aromas of red berries, violets and hints of mint. Perfect for partnering with pastas, red meats and winter fare laced with spicy flavours.

James Halliday, Australian Wine Companion 2013, July 2012

92 points

Good purple-crimson; the fragrant bouquet leads into an elegant, medium-bodied palate with clear-cut varietal character in the blackcurrant / cassis / mint spectrum, along with a hint of earth. Good mouth feel, length and balance; very impressive at the price. 92 points.

Jeff Collerson, Daily Telegraph (Australia), 21 July 2012

Established in 1979, Katnook has 200ha of vineyard in Coonawarra's famed red dirt. This represents excellent value. Loaded with red and blackcurrant fruit, it has balanced tannins and well-measured oak.

Ray Jordan, The West Australian (Australia), 19 July 2012

90 points

Such a good vintage in Coonawarra. Generous and well-rounded Coonawarra cabernet. Blackberry and dark savoury plum with a leafy overtone on the nose. The palate is deep, richly textured with concentrated intensity carrying through to the finish. Lovely wine for the shorter term. Tremendous value. Cellar: 5 years. 90/100

Mike Frost, Courier Mail Brisbane (Australia), 8 June 2012

There's blackcurrant and cassis fruit with a touch of vanilla oak on the nose and palate and a fine tannin finish to this Coonawarra red that would be a very good match with grilled lamb chops or gourmet lamb sausages over the next few years.

FOUNDER'S BLOCK

Cabernet Sauvignon 2009

Awards

Bronze medal	2011 Decanter World Wine Awards (UK)
Bronze medal	2011 International Wine & Spirits Competition (UK)
Bronze medal	2011 Japan Wine Challenge (Japan)

Reviews

James Halliday, Australian Wine Companion (Australia), 2012

92 points

Lively zesty, blackcurrant and cassis fruit, and fine tannins to provide structure. Rating 92. Cellar until 2020. Special value - wine considered to offer special value for money.

Lisa Perrotti Brown, The Wine Advocate (USA), April 2012

Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2009 Founder's Block Cabernet Sauvignon presents aromas of warm blackberries and black plums over hints of pencil lead, menthol and cloves. Medium bodied with just enough taut fruit in the mouth, it has a medium of level chewy tannins, crisp acidity and a medium to long finish. Drinking now, it should remain good to 2016.

Tongham Wine Tasters, February 2012

Everyone had this wine in his or her top three bottles of the evening and three had it as their top wine. For those of us trying to guess the varietal it was relatively easy with its dark colour and classic plummy cassis with notes of tobacco and herbs taste. This was the most expensive wine of the evening but one, which we can recommend. The region of Coonawarra in South Australia is the best in that country for Cabernet Sauvignon and Katnook Estate is a well know and respected wine maker and thus no surprise that this wine pleased our educated palates.

Kerry Skinner, Illawarra Mercury (Australia), 15th October 2011

This label honours John Riddoch who founded Coonawarra and paved the way for its winemaking future. A classic Coonawarra cabernet, lickings of blackberry fruit, minty undertones, cleverly oaked, juicy tannins.

Winsor Dobbin, Sunday Examiner (Australia), July 2011

Coonawarra cabernet us the thinking person's choice of red wine: rich without being too jammy; structured without being too lean. This is a fruit-driven wine with a palate dominated by dark wild berry characters. There is the merest hint of oak influence, sensible alcohol levels at 13.5 percent and an appealing softness. Great with steak.

Nick Stock, Wine Business Monthly (Australia), July 2011

Fresh-picked mint and blackcurrant, also leafy elements and fresh cut herbs. The palate's styled for early drinking. Freshness from start to finish.

Campbell Mattinson, Winefront Monthly (Australia), May 2011

It sees French and American oak but you're buying - and drinking - it for the fruit flavour. It's an Aussie version of an uncomplicated Claret. Structure, fruit, varietal integrity and a satisfying finish. It's not thick or concentrated, overdone or especially impressive. It's just good cabernet drinking. Dark in the glass. Some blackcurrant notes. Some chalkiness. Maybe some honey/chocolate. I'd give it another year, then drink it over the next handful.

Katnook

FOUNDER'S BLOCK

Ken Gargett , Courier Mail (Australia), 21 May 2011

89 points

Coonawarra's famous cigar shaped strip of terra rossa has produced more than its fair share of great reds...the better Coonawarra cabernets are classics. They are elegant wines: not blockbusters, though they exhibit plenty of flavour. There will be black fruit and often a telltale hint of mint, and 2009 is a very promising vintage. Katnook Founder's Block Cabernet Sauvignon 2009 – dark berry notes, a whiff of the region's mint and liquorice. 89 points.

Ray Jordan, The West Australian (Australia), 12 May 2011

88 points

Opens with a distinctive cool mint nose so typical of Coonawarra. It's a medium-bodied cabernet displaying fine tannins and subtle oak in support of the soft fruit flavours. Perfect as a wine to drink over the next few years and best while it retains some fresher primary fruit flavours. 88/100

International Wine and Spirit Competition, UK, May 2011

Bronze medal

Flavoursome and mellow taste. Light style. Perfectly balanced. Will improve.

Kerry Skinner, Illawarra Mercury (Australia), 13 April 2011

By no means is this new Coonawarra cabernet, released in tandem with an equally good 2009 chardonnay, a blockbuster. Like recent vintages it's very approachable with minimum oak treatment, soft and supple, textured and easy drinking with sweet black fruit flavours, a hint of mint and juicy tannins. Drink with a lamb casserole.

Chris Shanahan, Canberra Times (Australia), 6 April 2011

Founder's Block might easily woo drinkers back to cabernet. It presents the variety's alluring, pure ripe berry aroma and flavour on a gentle, elegantly structured palate that grips without rasping, as young cabernet sometimes does. It does this without diminishing the varietal character and drinking satisfaction. It's simply made to enjoy right now rather than in 10 or 15 years.

Tony Love, Herald Sun, Courier Mail, Daily Telegraph (Australia), 29 March 2011

4 glasses

A Coonawarra regional character mintiness is the essence of this ripper cabernet which sings all about its fresh, dark berry fruit rather than ripe Ribena-style flavours and, more importantly, the tannin feel is very approachable and ultimately extremely drinkable. Value: brilliant. Food: beef cheek on mash. Glass rating: four.

Tony Love, The Adelaide Advertiser (Australia), 16 March 2011

This wine is so typically Coonawarra you'd pick it blindfolded at midnight in the Tantanoola Caves. Sipped beside a melt-in-mouth Wagyu beef cheek eaten with no knife but a spoon, the wine acts as a dark-berry, aromatically herbed dressing. Yes, there's a synergy. Put it down to regional connection or romance of the road.