



Katnook

FOUNDER'S BLOCK

Katnook Founder's Block Merlot

2010

"88 points"

James Halliday, Australian Wine Companion 2014, 26 July 2013

Light colour; the wine has genuine varietal expression, arguably too genuine, with its black olive/forest overtones to the plum/cassis fruit.

"Mouthful of forest berries from the very first sip"

www.fabulousladieswinesociety.com, 19th June 2013

It doesn't hold back on the dark, ripe fruit, so be ready for a mouthful of forest berries from the very first sip. There's a lovely, subtle sweetness from all that fruit which makes it so enjoyable and approachable. There's also a little bit of warm oak and a velvety-ness that is comforting and warming. Like throwing a big, flowy scarf around your neck.

2009

"Gentle savoury tannins"

James Halliday, Australian Wine Companion 2013, July 2012

Light red; the red berry fruits of the bouquet are followed logically by the light- to medium-bodied palate; here plum, cassis and spice flavours have gentle savoury tannins that are ideally weighted for the wine.

"Sweet ripe plum"

Ross Noble, The Courier, 2nd November 2011

The Katnook Estate Founder's Block Merlot 2009 is one of few of the variety produced in Coonawarra. It has sweet ripe plum on the nose and palate, finishing soft and dry.

2008

"93 points - excellent value here"

Tony Love, Herald Sun Top 100 wines, 8th November 2011

An attractive subtlety to this wine creates interest - perhaps it's a first glimpse of it maturing. But more so its earthiness and bay leaf characters than pure fruit, then a well weighted tannin coating impresses giving a good line and length overall. Excellent value here too. 93 points. Serve with traditional lamb.

"A beauty"

David Ellis, Melbourne Observer, 16th October 2011

If you enjoy Merlot, don't look past Katnook Estate's 2008 Founder's Block that at \$20 is a generously flavoured wine from an excellent vintage, one that gave this wine particularly nice flavours of dark berries, ripe plums and a hint of spice.

Named after the original landholding of John Riddoch, the founder of Coonawarra, this is a beauty to enjoy with tasty plum marinated pork ribs.

"Dark berry, plum and fruitcake"

Mike Frost, Courier Mail Brisbane, 2nd September 2011

There's dark berry, plum and fruit cake on the nose and palate of this Coonawarra red, with some toasty oak and a fine tannin finish. It should make a good accompaniment to lamb or duck dishes over the next three or four years. \$18-\$20

"Juicy and finishes long - 91 points"

Mike Bennie, Wine Business Monthly, September 2011

Yes plum. Yes chocolate. But first we get the red fruit spectrum and rusticity of terra rossa earth at play. The palate is medium weighted, very juicy and finishes long and fresh. A merlot showing agility. 91 points.

"Plummy/cassis"

Andrew Caillard MW, Langton's website, August 2011

Medium deep colour. Light plummy/ cassis aromas with touch of herb. Surprisingly good volume with juicy/ plummy/ cassis/ herb garden flavours, fine supple tannins.

"Rich plummyness"

Lindsay Saunders, Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, 20th August 2011

Let's cut to the chase - \$20 isn't a lot for a red this good. Rich plummyness teams up with a hint of spice on the palate and a smooth, rounded finish but not wimpy as some merlots can be.

"Ripe and concentrated"

Winsor Dobbin, Golf Magazine, October 2011

Katnook winemaker Wayne Stehbens is one of the few Australians who has a handle on merlot, which can be a capricious grape in warm climates.

This is a ripe and concentrated wine with plenty of generous berry fruit flavours and impressive firm tannins that is very food friendly. A step up in quality for most budget Merlots.

2007

"Commended "

Commended accolade in the 2010 International Wine Competition held in London.

"Enjoyable and satisfying. "

Campbell Mattinson, Winefront Monthly, April 2010

Katnook's Founder's Block range has been consistently good since it was introduced a few years ago. Merlot would put it to the test though, I figured. But having consumed a glass of this, I can happily report that this is pretty good stuff. It's plummy and cedary, perhaps even a touch minerally. It's dry and structured too, with a small hole in the mid palate, but in general it offers a good amount of fruit and oak flavour. If you were being critical you'd note that it's a wine that doesn't bear scrutiny, but leaning back and just having a glass of red... it's enjoyable, and satisfying. Rated : 88 Points

2006

"92 points - exceptional."

Mike Frost, Courier Mail, Brisbane, February 17th 2009

The rich plum and berry fruit on the nose is complemented by restrained toasty oak and some licorice and chocolate, with fine tannins. Try it now with roast lamb or duck or cellar for three to five years. 92 points - exceptional.

"A consistent winner"

Merrilyn Hunt, MX magazine Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, March 13th 2009

No surprises here - and that's a good thing. This one's been around for years and it's a consistent winner. You'd be hard pressed to find another Aussie merlot with this depth and complexity for the price.

"Excellent example with redcurrant and cherry"

Ross Noble, The Courier, South Australia, March 4th 2009

An excellent example with redcurrant and cherry liqueur aromas. There are raspberry and cherry on the palate, with some marshmallow characters from judicious use of oak.

"Superb savoury flavours"

John Fordham, Sunday Telegraph, Sydney, May 3rd 2009

From the cabernet sauvignon stronghold of Coonawarra, this red's superb savoury flavours point to merlot's potential.

"Tastes pretty schmick"

Campbell Mattinson and Gary Walsh, The Big Red Wine Book, 2009/10

Mattinson has been a critic of Coonawarra merlot and, indeed, specifically of Katnook Estate's merlots. But this is making him eat humble pie - which goes well with a glass of merlot, it so happens. This tastes of boysenberries, chocolate and pencils (trust us, it does) and, while it's not quite a no-brainer, given time to breathe in the glass it tastes pretty schmick. Drink 2009-2012. 89 Points

2005

"Generously flavoured red."

John Fordham, Sunday Telegraph, 10/08/2008

Something of a merlot specialist, Coonawarra hotshot Wayne Stehbins has done his reputation no harm with this soft, generously flavoured red.

2004

"88 points. 4 stars"

James Halliday, Australian Wine Companion 2007, 2007

Fresh, with some savoury/minty overtones to small berry fruits; fine tannins. 88 points. 4 stars

"one of the best"

Jeni Port, The Age, 29/01/2008

Katnook's second tier merlot is one of the best merlots for under \$20."

"terrific value for money"

Matt Skinner, Waitrose Food Illustrated, 01/11/2007

The Katnook Founders range consistently displays the kind of style and finesse more often reserved for wines that go for far more money. From the moment you raise your glass, lush cassis and plum fruit floods the senses. Characteristically, the palate is soft and forgiving with fresh acidity and fine-grained tannins - the perfect introduction to New World merlot and terrific value for money.

2003

"4 stars"

James Halliday, Australian Wine Companion 2008, 2008

Light-bodied; earthy, spicy, savoury, olive aromas with distinct varietal flavours. 87 points. 4 stars