



# MÉRITE

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## MÉRITE 2016 Shiraz Malbec

**Winemaker:** Mike Kloak and Colleen Miller

**Grape(s):** 94% Shiraz, 6% Malbec

**GI:** Wrattontully (Limestone Coast, South Australia)

**Site(s):** Estate vineyards in the Joanna region of Wrattontully

**Vintage notes:** A vintage celebrated for both quality and quantity, the latter of which had been hard to come by in recent years. A warm, dry, consistent growing season produced an early and robust harvest. Despite the yields, vines were in balance, and only minimal thinning was required across the GI. A standout vintage for red wines, with intense fruit supported by soft tannins.

**Vineyard notes:** This wine is based on Shiraz planted in 2000, with Malbec planted in 2008. Soils are free draining with limestone bedrock, including the terra rossa red, silty clays made famous by neighboring Coonawarra. 110m elevation, making it the highest site in Wrattontully.

**Winemaking:** Sunrise harvest. Grapes were crushed, destemmed, and fermented in small-batch stainless steel tanks. After 7 days, the ferments were drained, pressed, and racked into oak. Maturation in mainly 2 year-old French oak, with a small amount of American oak, 30% new all together. Egg white fined.

**Closure:** Stelvin

**ABV:** 14.5%

**LEGEND tasting notes:** A regal wine, balancing firmness and juiciness to great appeal. Aromas of smokey reduction, Davidson plum (a tart, purple native plum), and black cherry. The palate adds complexity with river mint, cinnamon myrtle, and cedar. This wine is defined by length, freshness, and a good balance of interest and drinkability.

**Production size:** 400 dozen