

80 Block Merlot



2013 80 BLOCK MERLOT

In the early 1980's Barossa grape growers were introduced to a new grape variety called Merlot. Although Merlot was already a world recognised variety and responsible for the makeup of some of the world's most premium wines, up until then here in the Barossa it had not been planted. With that, Uncle Ken (Semmler) being somewhat of a pioneer of the day decided to put it to the test by planting a small patch on the St Jakobi Vineyard in 1980.

It was from this block that the "Vine Improvement Society" took cuttings each year to propagate and grow more Merlot vines for others to plant in the neighbourhood. Also, over the years, this 1980 block Merlot had been used by us to blend with Shiraz and Cabernet to produce our WillowBend red blend, with the first Vintage of this wine being 1990.

Our first ever Dutschke 80 Block Merlot from the 2011 Vintage was very well received and sold out quickly. The feedback from those who tasted this wine and the speed in which it left our shed was enough to convince us that we were onto a good thing! We're excited about producing a straight varietal Merlot from the St Jakobi Vineyard on a regular basis. It's a variety that's typically used for blending with its big brother Cabernet Sauvignon, but can produce wonderful wine on its own, deep in colour, with distinctive perfumed dark berry fruit and mouth-filling flavours. With good use of oak one can find that the resulting wine can be rich and complex.

The 2013 Vintage as many would say was a wonderful year for all red varieties here in the Barossa and the 80 Block Merlot from the St Jakobi Vineyard was up there with the best of them.

We trust you'll enjoy it!

Winemaker:	Wayne Dutschke
Vineyard:	Ken and Helen Semmler's "1980 Block" Merlot on the St Jakobi Vineyard
Region:	Lyndoch, Barossa Valley, South Australia
Harvest Date:	26th February 2013
Alcohol:	14,5%
Oak Maturation:	15 months New & older French and American Oak Hogsheads
Cellaring potential:	Great to drink now and with a further 3-8 years cellaring you'll find a more complex wine.

Wine Advocate: 90+ points

Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, the 2013 80 Block Merlot has a warm plum and blackberry-laced nose with nuances of earth, underbrush and cloves. Medium to full-bodied with a good amount of ripe blackberry and subtle spice flavors, it has a chewy/grippy frame and satisfying finish.