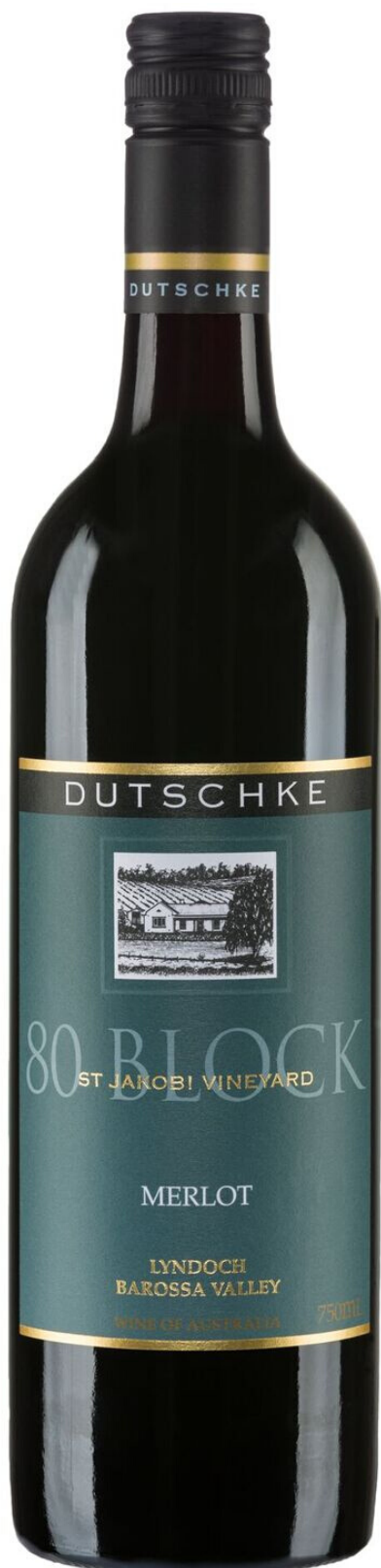


# DUTSCHKE

## BAROSSA VALLEY

### 2016 80 Block Merlot



In the early 1980s 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 most premium wines, up until then it had not been planted here in the Barossa. 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.

We're excited about producing a straight varietal Merlot from the St. Jakobi Vineyard. It's a variety that is typically used for blending with its big brother Cabernet Sauvignon, but can also produce wonderful wine on its own. Deep in colour, with distinctive perfumed dark berry fruit, hints of tomato leaf aromatics and mouth filling flavours. With good use of oak one can find the resulting wine to be rich and complex.

The 2016 vintage brings our 6th release of 80 Block Merlot. 2016 was a low yielding year (a bit more than half of the average yield) for Merlot, bringing on an early harvest. It's a little unusual to be picking Merlot before Shiraz, but that's what happened in 2016. The lower yields gave good depth of flavour and lead to having another wonderful year for producing good red wine here in the Barossa. The 80 Block Merlot from the St. Jakobi vineyard is no exception.

We trust you'll enjoy it!

<b>Winemaker</b>	Wayne Dutschke
<b>Vineyard</b>	Ken & Helen Semmler's St. Jakobi Vineyard
<b>Region</b>	Lyndoch, Barossa Valley, South Australia
<b>Harvest date</b>	18th of February 2016
<b>Alcohol</b>	14.5%
<b>Oak maturation</b>	18 months in new and older French and American oak hogsheads
<b>Bottling date</b>	September 2017
<b>Cellaring potential</b>	Drink now or cellar for more complexity