

Elderton Estate Barossa Merlot Vintage 2002

THE WINE

100% Barossa Valley Merlot

Colour: Deep red

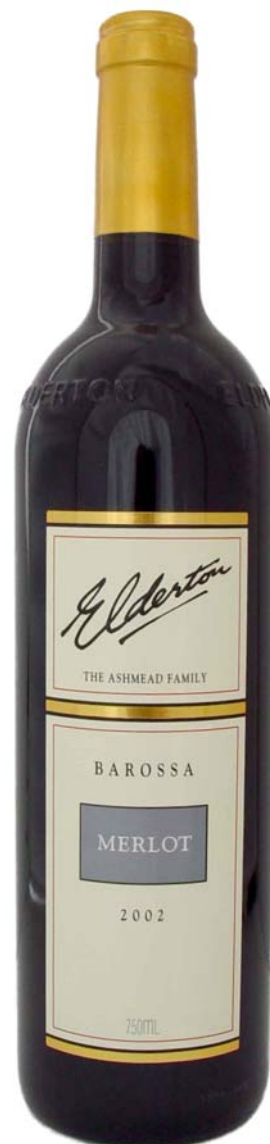
Nose: Intense aromas of crushed berries, minerals and violets.

Palate: Full bodied, with an amazing core of fruit, refined silky tannins and a seductively long finish.

Alcohol: 14.5% Alc/Vol

Ageing: Enjoy now or 6-15 years.

Food: Grilled Aussie lamb with roasted capsicum and couscous.



HISTORY

Until 1992 Elderton had used the small amounts of Merlot produced from the Estate as a blending tool with Cabernet. In 1992 the individual parcel of Merlot was exceptional and the decision was made to make a single varietal that encompassed the best that Merlot had to offer. The Elderton Merlot has now been recognised amongst the best five Merlots in the country and one of the most consistent as well. We believe the 2002 is one of the best we have produced.

VITICULTURE

The Elderton vineyard, which is about 72 acres in size, only has two small blocks of Merlot. Both of these blocks are towards the back of the vineyard, on the highest point where the soils are much sandier and freer draining than those that are closer to the river bed. With a Mediterranean climate, the Baumé reaches 13.5^o to 14.5^o and unlike Bordeaux, we have found great results in allowing the fruit to ripen significantly on the vine. 2002 was a cool but dry year which provided us with minute quantities of amazingly intense Merlot fruit.

WINEMAKING

Harvested at about 14.5^o Baumé in the cool of the night, the fruit is crushed and inoculated with a selected yeast strain for fermentation. Over the seven day ferment the wine is pumped over at least twice daily for further flavour and colour extraction. Matured in mainly French oak puncheons for 24 months, this wine offers integrated fruit flavours with balance and length.

ACCOLADES

GOLD – New Zealand International Wine Show 2005

SILVER – China International Wine & Spirit Challenge, 2006

★★★★Stars – Winestate Magazine May/June 2006

Best Other Red - Hyatt Advertiser Wine of the Year Awards 2006

88 Points – Robert Parker 2006