



Annie's Lane
CLARE VALLEY

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Annie's Lane Cabernet Merlot 2013

In the early days of winemaking local wine communities would often help each other during busy times of the season. After delivering lunches to workers pruning the vines in the middle of winter one year, Annie Wayman's horse drawn cart struck difficulty in negotiating the muddy track back to her cottage. From that day on, the track has been affectionately known as Annie's Lane.

The Annie's Lane Cabernet Merlot is a great example of this traditional red blend. Cabernet Sauvignon(72%) provides the structure to this wine while Merlot's (16%) fleshy plum fruit fills out the mid-palate.

The 2013 Annie's Lane Cabernet Merlot is deep red in colour, with lifted aromas of blackcurrants, spearmint and dried herbs. The palate is rich and generous, displaying varietal Cabernet and Merlot characters including redcurrants and ripe brambly fruit balanced by subtle oak influence. This medium bodied Cabernet Merlot finishes with savoury tannins.

Viticulture -Clare Valley

After some useful rain periods through the Winter in 2012, Spring brought very dry weather with total rainfall well below average and consequently one of the driest in 5 years. The warm growing season continued through Summer with short heat spikes on a regular occurrence contributing to below average crop loading. With no rain during the earlier ripening season, fruit was harvested at optimum maturity leading to great tannin and concentrated flavours.

The 2013 vintage will go down as one of the great vintages-wines will be varietal, approachable and flavoursome.

Winemaking

Annie's Lane Cabernet Merlot is made with a minimal intervention approach, retaining and enhancing the natural expression of the fruit. The grapes were crushed and de-stemmed. Individual parcels were fermented separately in a range of fermenter sizes including 10 tonne open fermenters. After primary fermentation, the wines were pressed off skins and then selected parcels were racked into a combination of French and American oak barrels for a minimum of 9 months maturation.

A portion of the wine matured in tank to bring lifted fruit to the final blend. Prior to blending, each parcel was re-assessed to confirm its suitability and quality for Annie's Lane Cabernet Merlot.

Winemaker—Alex MacKenzie

Cellaring : *Will develop further complexity with medium to long term careful cellaring. This wine is unfiltered and as such we recommend decanting prior to serving.*

Suggested Food: *Chargrilled lamb chops marinated in oregano, garlic and olive oil served with smoked paprika and capsicum relish..*

Technical Analysis

Harvest Date: February to March 2013

pH: 3.52

Acidity: 6.25g/L

Alcohol: 14%

RS: 0.6g/L

Bottling Date: June 2014

