

YALUMBA

The Menzies Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon 2003

Since its inaugural vintage in 1987, The Menzies, named after Sir Robert Menzies, politician and red wine enthusiast, has continued to grow in stature and quality.

Cabernet Sauvignon grapes used for The Menzies are estate grown at Yalumba's Coonawarra vineyard, an exceptional site in the heart of Coonawarra's legendary terra rossa strip.

Today, this premium Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon represents elegance of structure, finesse and longevity.



WINEMAKING / VITICULTURE

The rainfall and temperatures during the 2002-03 growing season at Coonawarra were above average so our vines set healthy canopies. During February and March prior to harvest, conditions were warm and though it rained a couple of times, this freshened the vines rather than created any mildew concerns. Generally the temperatures through to harvest were mild allowing the grapes to retain excellent balance of flavour and sugar.

Menzies is made by small lot vinification, maintaining the integrity of each harvest parcel throughout vinification and maturation. The grapes are crushed to small static fermenters and the liberation of colour and tannin is controlled either by plunging the skins, irrigating the fermenting wine over the cap or draining all the wine from the skins then flooding it back. Selected parcels were given extended skin contact before pressing.

The majority of the oak the wine is matured in is French but this year saw the inclusion of a small number of well seasoned new American oak barriques. Once the bottling blend was finalised, the wine was given a further four months in oak to harmonise.

Yalumba The Menzies Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon 2003 has crimson red hues. The aroma is reminiscent of briar and brambles with lashings of berry fruits and high notes of sweet vanilla oak. The palate opens with the berry fruits building to a complex meld of fruit and savoury briar notes and finishes with lashings of soft, velvety tannins.

WINEMAKER PROFILE

Peter Gambetta joined the Yalumba Winemaking team as Yalumba Senior Red Winemaker in July 2002 and is responsible for making Yalumba's premium red wines from the Limestone Coast including Yalumba's esteemed single vineyard wine - The Menzies Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon. Peter came to Yalumba with outstanding red winemaking experience and skills, following his leadership position as Group Red Winemaker at Orlando Wyndham and also brought with him an intimate understanding of the premium wine-growing region of Coonawarra.

VINTAGE INFORMATION

Vintage	2003
Region	Coonawarra
Winemaker	Peter Gambetta
Harvested	5th April to 15th May 2003
Treatment	Matured for 22 Months in 58% new French hogsheads & barriques, 6% new American barriques, balance 1 year old French & American hogsheads and barriques.
Alc/Vol	14%
Total Acid	6.5 g/L
pH	3.41
Cellaring	Medium to long term

