



Joshua Cooper

2021

'BALGOWNIE VINEYARD 1970 BLOCK'

Cabernet Sauvignon | *Bendigo - Australia*



NATURAL



VEGAN

Stats

Grapes: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

Vineyard: Balgownie Vineyard

Vine Age: 51-years-old

Soil Type: Shale, mudstone, quartz and clay

Viticulture: Sustainable

Fermentation: Native — stainless-steel

Skin Contact: 3 weeks

Aging: 12 months barrel followed by 4 months stainless-steel

Alcohol: 13%

pH: 3.8

Total Acidity: 5.5 g/L

Total SO2: 60 ppm

Total Production: 333 cases

Reviews

Halliday Wine Companion | 97 points

About

Balgownie Vineyard is a name that should need no introduction to lovers of Victorian wine. As an icon of the 70's and 80's, it has produced some of the most remarkable mature Australian wines Josh has ever had the pleasure of drinking. Indeed his cellar is well stocked with them thanks to 10+ years of collecting. The vineyard was established in 1969 at 650 feet near the banks of Myers Creek in Maiden Gully on Ordovician shale, quartz and ironstone rubble. Thanks to current winemaker Tony Winspear, this vineyard now supplies Josh a small amount of old vine Cabernet Sauvignon from some of the earliest plantings in 1970. In the words of Jeremy Oliver, "This vineyard is a national treasure – it has the ability to produce reds from cabernet sauvignon and shiraz that cellar with the elegance and longevity to rival anything in Australia."

The fruit was hand harvested around three weeks earlier than Shay's Flat. The fruit was entirely destemmed, then partially foot crushed before transfer to open fermenters where it remained for three weeks. The must was allowed to soak until natural fermentation commenced and was then extracted with a combination pumping over, delestage and pigage before basket pressing. Elevage took place in a combination of new Stockinger 300l (30%) and seasoned thin staved Bordeaux coopered barriques for 12 months, before four months in stainless steel after assemblage. The only addition to the wine is a small dose of sulfur.

Tasting Notes

Incredibly refined and complex with iron, sweet cassis, cedar spice, violet and rose, air reveals infinite nuance and detail. The palate is braced by a tight tannic structure, finishing with sweet violet and cassis.