



Bin No:

1473

*Wine: Wakefield Estate Merlot 2016 Vt*

*Country: Australia*

*Region: Clare Valley - South Australia*

*Producer: The Taylor Family*

*Vintage: 2016*

*Colour: Red*

*Grape Variety: 100% Merlot*

*Status: Vegetarian -*

*Status: Still  
sustainable environmental management*

*Allergens: contains sulphites - egg*

*Body Value: D (A is light - E is full bodied)*

*abv: 14.0% - bottle size: 75cl*



### *Tasting Note:*

*Ripe berry, rich fruitcake flavours and soft, velvety tannins. French and American oak impart dark chocolate, coffee bean and vanilla characters.*

#### *The Clare Valley*

*The Clare Valley is situated in the Northern Mount Lofty Ranges of South Australia 137km due north of Adelaide and about one hour's drive west of the Barossa Valley. At its southern entrance at the village of Auburn a series of elevated valleys, rolling hills and wide open valley floors extend 35 kilometres north to the Clare township. The valley is divided into 5 sub-regions: Sevenhill, Clare, Watervale, Polish River and Auburn which each have their own distinctive soil, geography and climatic differences.*

*The valley benefits from cold winters and cooling afternoon breezes in the summer months which help to create a considerably more moderate continental climate than its geographical location might otherwise suggest. These factors are important in slowing down the grape ripening process and are the reason why delicate, aromatic whites can flourish alongside intensely flavoured reds.*

*The Wakefield estate is located at the southern end of the valley, in Auburn, and at 350 metres above sea level, is quite elevated. The altitude, combined with a wide diurnal temperature range – up to 40+ degrees Celsius in the day, dropping down to a chilly 5 degrees Celsius at night – is perfect for producing good natural acidity, varietal flavours and aromas in the aromatic white varieties, as well as locking in tannin and colour stability in the reds.*

#### *The Vineyards*

*The Wakefield estate covers 750 hectares and has approximately 415 hectares under vine with a plan to raise this up to 600 hectares. The estate has a diverse selection of micro-climates, soil combinations and geographical characteristics which combine to create myriad of individual sites which bring their own unique characteristics to the wines. This enables careful site selection to take place ensuring that each grape variety is planted on the most suitable site. Around 60% of the vines are planted on Terra Rossa (red-brown loam over limestone) soils*

*which tend to lie on the hillsides, the rest are planted on deep clay base with rich loam soils on land that rolls down the banks of the Wakefield River.*

#### *Environmental Stewardship*

*The Wakefield vineyards and winery are managed in line with the Taylor family's strict environmental philosophy and belief in Environmental Stewardship. Wakefield wines have taken the following measures:*

##### *Water Recycling*

*Water is a scarce resource and the Taylor family do all they can to use it with restraint. All water used in the Wakefield winery and bottling hall is collected and recycled in their onsite state-of-the-art water recycling facility and then stored in one of their two dams. All run off from rainfall is captured in one these dams for re-use. Irrigation is carried out on a need only basis and managed by a computer controlled dripper on each vine.*

##### *Organic Compost*

*All solid organic materials including grape marc are utilised as compost on the vineyards. The compost is made on site without the addition of water.*

##### *Organic Mulching*

*Since 2001, Wakefield Wines have used organic matter to mulch the soil under the vines planted on their Clare Valley estate. This provides benefits such as superior root growth near the surface to better utilise water and nutrients and enhanced earthworm and soil microbe activity contributing to healthier soil and reduced weed growth.*

##### *Organic Cultivation Practices*

*In 2009 Wakefield Wines reintroduced sheep to their vineyards for the first time in 25 years. The sheep roam within the vines and control weeds and winter grasses. This has led to an immediate reduction in the requirements for pesticide use to control weeds and with the added benefit of a reduction in the diesel used by spray tractors. The sheep's manure is also acts as a fertiliser and soil conditioner.*

##### *Minimisation of Pesticide use*

*Insecticide use is kept to an absolute minimum with no broad spectrum insecticides at all. Continuous vineyard monitoring ensures only targeted use in the worst affected areas. In addition only fungicides certified for use in organic production are used.*

##### *Wakefield River Regeneration*

*The Wakefield River flows in a southerly direction through Auburn in the Clare Valley before turning west to flow through Balaklava and into the Port Wakefield estuary. Wakefield Wines, through the formation of the River Wakefield Group, has championed a project to regenerate the Wakefield River with control of weed species and the planting of local indigenous vegetation to enhance biodiversity.*

##### *Wine description*

*The Taylor family believe great wines are made in the vineyard. The Estate wines are crafted with care and seek to capture the essence of the vineyard site and the pure varietal expression of the grape.*

## Vineyard information:

*The average vine age is 10 to 30 years old at an elevation 350 metres.*

*The soil composition Terra Rossa over Limestone*

*Average yield (hl/ha) 57.6 hl/ha*

*Harvest type Machine harvested*

*Environmental management Sustainable - ISO 14001 certified*

## Winemaking information:

*The majority of fruit was sourced from the Lodden and St Andrews blocks on the Taylor estate. The winemakers seek to craft a wine with a rich mid palate and soft, velvety feel. The fruit was de-stemmed, transferred to stainless steel vessels for a quick, yet gentle, warm fermentation using a yeast to enhance fruit expression. After primary fermentation, the wine was pressed and transferred back to stainless steel for secondary, malo lactic fermentation. The wine was racked off to a mixture of American & French oak barrels (10% new, 30% 1yr old, 60% 2yrs and older), left to mature before being blended and bottled.*

*Finning with eggs before a light filtration before bottling*

## Tasting Notes -

*Colour: The wine is a dark red with an intense purple hue.*

*Nose: Distinct aromas of black cherries and ripe strawberries abound with secondary spice, sweet mocha and cigar box characters evident.*

*Palate: This wine is medium to full-bodied with lush red berry, plum and cherry fruit characters. The fruit flavours are balanced by undertones of creamy mocha, spice & subtle savoury characters. The palate has a soft, velvety texture with grainy tannins through the mid-palate and a long, persistence to finish.*

## CELLARING NOTES

*Enjoy upon release but will reward careful cellaring up to 2020.*

## Food Recommendation:

*Enjoy with roast meats - beef or lamb*

