

TAPANAPPA, ADELAIDE HILLS,  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

MENTZENDORFF  
*wine shippers since*  
1858

# WHALEBONE VINEYARD MERLOT CABERNET FRANC

## TAPANAPPA

### DETAILS OF PRODUCTION

2014 was a cool and rainfall sufficient vintage at the Whalebone Vineyard in Wrattenbully. The 40 year old vines received 121% of average annual rain from May 2013 to April 2014. The wet winter and spring were also much warmer than average, by about 1.5°C. At Whalebone Vineyard the Merlot grapes were harvested late on the 5th of April and the Cabernet Franc on the 15th of April with perfectly mature tannins, colour and flavours. The hand selected bunches of Merlot and Cabernet Franc from Whalebone Vineyard were separately destemmed, partially crushed and chilled. After a 4-day cold maceration the tubs began fermentation and were hand plunged each day for the 10-day duration of fermentation. The tubs of Merlot and Cabernet Franc were separately pressed straight to French oak barriques, 60% new and the balance 1 use. MLF occurred in barrique in the spring, the barriques were then racked off full lees and the wines returned to barrique for another 18 months. In April 2016 the wines were clear racked from barrique and 68% Merlot and 32% Cabernet Franc were blended ready for bottling in May 2016.

### TASTING NOTES

Tapanappa 2014 Merlot Cabernet Franc is an intense cool year wine with vibrant Merlot plum fruit, reminiscent of Christmas pudding fruit and Cabernet Franc floral and leafiness and refined but determined tannins. It is an elegant wine with loads of primary varietal fruit. The colour is medium density and purple edged, the aroma is of cigar box and complex ripe fruit and the earthy terroir nuances of the Whalebone Vineyard. The core of the wine is sweet and refined but the finish is of gentle savoury tannin. 2014 Tapanappa Merlot Cabernet Franc is a keeper!

### HOW TO SERVE

Best accompanied by dishes based on braised ox cheeks or slow cooked veal shanks.

[www.tapanappa.com.au](http://www.tapanappa.com.au)

#### VINTAGE

2014

#### STYLE

Red

#### BLEND OF GRAPES

68% Merlot

32% Cabernet Franc

#### WINEMAKER

Brian Croser

#### ALCOHOL

14.4%

