



# PATINA

## 2003 Merlot

*Patina is a family-owned estate nestled in the rich volcanic slopes of Mt Canobolas near Orange, New South Wales. Owner and winemaker, Gerald Naef, blends science and technology with age-old tradition to create complex flavours forged by the elements of nature. His Patina Wine represents the complexity and elegance of cool climate wine defined by nature and his personal signature.*



**Variety:** Merlot

**Region:** Orange, NSW Central Highlands

**Winemakers Notes:** Merlot is renowned amongst viticulturists to be a difficult variety. It often grows irregularly and suffers from a condition known as "hen and chicken" where some berries form with seeds and some don't making small and large grapes. Merlot is very happy in Orange, it grows well, sets fruit well with very little tendency to "hen and chicken" and produces wine with good colour and fruit intensity. Orange region Merlot tends to show good fruit, acid and tannin resulting in very inviting wine with finesse and complexity rarely seen in this variety.

**Winemaker:** Gerald Naef

**Colour:** Red with brick red edges.

**Aroma:** Ripe dark fruit meld with bottle developed characters displaying coffee, mocha, chocolate and liquorice interlaced with the characters from ageing in oak barrels.

**Palate:** Velvety up front dark fruit leads to mid palate freshness with well-balanced acid followed by firm but well developed and enticing tannin complexed by peppery spice. And it's kind of like me... very youthful for its age. ;-)

**Winemaking:** Picked with ripe black berry and mulberry characters it had seven days cold soak after crushing to extract the rich berry flavours. Pressed off skins at about ten percent alcohol to minimise seed tannin extraction it was then aged in seasoned French oak for 12 months prior to bottling. 13.8% Alc/Vol

**Cellaring:** This wine was quite sharp and edgy as a young wine but has developed incredibly well with time. It is drinking well now and should continue to show favourable development for many more years.