



PATINA 2009 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

Winemaker's 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 (developing both 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: Purple with hints of brick red.

Aroma: Tantalising aromas of ripe dark berry fruit, plums, olives, chocolate and liquorice balance with lovely developed complexities of barrel aging.

Palate: Firm tannin from start to finish complements the fruit in this wine and ensures it will be a great accompaniment with food.

Winemaking: Picked at 3.45 pH and 13.85 Baumé with ripe blackberry and mulberry characters. It was then cold soaked after crushing to extract the rich berry flavours. Pressed off skins when dry then aged in seasoned French oak for 12 months.

Cellaring: This wine has been released with bottle age that has softened the tannins and is drinking well now and should continue to show favourable development through to 2025.