

Bellingham Ancient Earth Merlot 2012

Dark ruby with a vibrant strawberry edge opening with ripe red cherry and summer berry fruit aromas layered with earthy forest floor and hints of cacao supported by spicy oak intrigue and sleek ripe tannins through to a smooth and succulent gentle finish.

Delicious on its own or with seared duck breast with plum and ginger compote, Chinese five spice roast pork belly or wild mushroom ragout.

variety : Merlot | 100% Merlot

winery : Bellingham Wines

winemaker : Niel Groenewald & Mario Damon

wine of origin : Elgin

analysis : alc : 13.5 % vol rs : 4.5 g/l pH : 3.6 ta : 5.4 g/l

type : Red **style :** Dry **wooded**

pack : Bottle **size :** 750ml **closure :** Screwcap

ageing : Soft and approachable for immediate drinking although the structure will allow for further development for up to 5 years from vintage.

in the vineyard : This Merlot grows in granite dominated soils.

2012 had a warmer ripening period that produced good ripeness in our Merlot vineyards with pleasing colour and flavour concentration.

about the harvest: The grapes were harvested by hand between 26° - 26° B in early March.

in the cellar : The grapes were crushed and fermented on the skins with gentle pump-overs before going to barrel where malolactic fermentation is completed. Very gentle wood maturation took place in older French oak for 12 months before final blending and bottling at our cellar.

