

Benchmark by Grant Burge, is the epitome of a great wine from South Australia. The name sets the high standard of quality, style and taste of the wine, which others strive to attain. Grant selects only the best parcels of grapes to make this premium, fruit-driven wine with excellent balance, which can be enjoyed without years of cellaring and offers excellent value, quality and consistency.

THE FRUIT

An excellent growing season allowed maximum development of varietal Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz characters and concentration of flavours. The blend is made up of 85% Cabernet and 15% Shiraz, with a large portion of the fruit harvested from growers in the Barossa, and the remainder from respected premium growers in South Australia's Riverland.

THE WINEMAKING

The fruit was crushed and de-stemmed, before fermentation could begin in stainless steel tanks for seven days. After malolactic fermentation was complete, the wine was transferred to older American and French oak hogsheads for maturation for 12 months before blending and bottling.

2007 Benchmark Cabernet Shiraz

The 2007 Benchmark Cabernet Shiraz is vibrant and youthful with deep purple hues. The nose is complex with blackberries, blueberries and hints of raspberries from the Shiraz component. An intense fruit rich palate with flavours following on from the nose, the palate is further complimented by spices and soft earthy undertones, a fleshy mouthfeel and well integrated oak.

This delicious wine is ideal for every day drinking and is an excellent companion to barbequed meats and rich tomato dishes.

