



2024 MERLOT

In 1984, Merlot vines were planted at Concongella Vineyards' Thirteen-Acre Block. Comprising of only 1400 vines nested in the middle of the block with Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc on either side.

This wine, as a single varietal, is only produced in exceptional years, with the last bottling being in 2006. Showing the class and elegance, these older plantings offer.

The 13 Acre vineyard, when released, produces a classic Bordeaux-style blend of Cabernet, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot. The vineyard conditions need to be right for the Cabernets to fully ripen and attain the balance and complexity to make a full-bodied, well-balanced, elegant wine.

Technical Details

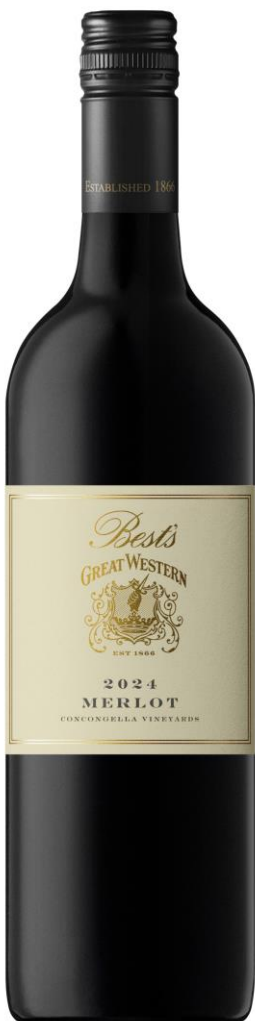
Region	Great Western, Victoria
Grape Variety	Merlot
Alcohol	14.0%
Winemakers	Jacob Parton & Dom Bolton

Tasting Notes

Colour	Dense ruby red with purple hues
Bouquet	Lifted aromas of cassis, dark cherry and ripe plum, layered with leafy spice and a touch of rhubarb freshness.
Palate	The palate is juicy and densely packed, delivering rich dark fruit flavours intertwined with spicy paprika notes and savoury complexity. Great concentration and depth are balanced by vibrant freshness, leading to a long, supple finish.

Tasting well now and could age for an additional 7-12 years. Best paired with braised meats, pork and charcuterie

Vintage	Vintage 2024 began with a very wet spring. Rain and cool temperatures were the theme up until Christmas. The rain slowed down in January and was followed by very warm weather across February. A warmer end to Summer promoted intense berry and floral notes.
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AWARDS AND REVIEWS

REVIEWS

Jeremy Oliver - July 2026

A supple, fine and seamless merlot whose vibrant aromas of dark cherries and berries are lifted by scents of dark flowers, minerals and a whiff of spearmint, and gently backed by cedary oak. Supported by pliant, firm and drying tannins, it's pristine and translucently clear, with a vibrant core of cherry/plum fruit driving long and gently toward a lingering finish that will become more savoury with time.

This is the first release under this label for almost 20 years, and while I wouldn't normally associate Great Western with merlot, I feel there's something special happening on the Best's vineyard.

Rating: 92 points

The Real Review, Huon Hooke - July 2026

'Medium-deep colour with tinges of both black and purple; earthy, tobacco and stewed-plum aromas, laced with fresh-picked green herbs.

The wine is medium-bodied and finishes with some drying tannins which are supple, ripe and balanced. A very smart young merlot'. Drink 2027-2036.

Rating: 90 points

Halliday Wine Companion, Jeni Port- July 2026

'Leafy varietal characters mingle with brambly red fruits, cherry and herbals on the nose. Bright, even and juicy on the palate with subtle red fruits, spice and a strong unbending green herbal edge that dominates the finish. Sturdy tannins in place; finishes dry.'

Rating: 90 points

Best's Great Western Merlot 2024

Planted between 1982 and 1984, Best's is particularly discerning about when it releases its single vineyard Merlot, and this is the first since 2006. It's been worth the wait, and I love its black- and redcurrant core, at once crunchy and juicy, its confident air of bay leaf and olive tapenade, its fine- grained tannins and gently lingering tang. 14.0% TS

Rating 93 points

WBM July/August 2026- Tyson Stelzer