



WINEMAKING IS AN ART. BUT THERE IS MORE TO IT THAN THAT. BEHIND EVERY BOTTLE OF STEFANO LUBIANA WINE LIES A LEGACY OF 5 GENERATIONS OF LUBIANA FAMILY WINEMAKING. A LEGACY OF LABOUR AND LOVE – FOR ALL TO ENJOY.

2009 STEFANO LUBIANA MERLOT

Merlot? Mmmm ... it tastes so much like it sounds. Mellow.

Mellow, melt-in-your-mouth 'mer--loh.' That's why the wine world has become so merlot-mad during the past decade. It's just so downright user-friendly. In the drinkability stakes, merlot runs rings around its similar-flavoured red wine cousin, cabernet sauvignon.



Fans of the movie *Sideways* we may be – and the way that it helped lift the profile of Pinot Noir around the world – we just can't agree with the sentiments of the Miles Raymond character, who insists, "if anyone orders merlot, I'm leaving. I am NOT drinking any ***** merlot!"

Good merlot is a joy to behold – especially when there's lamb on the plate, and an empty glass beside that needs something capable of taming the fattiness of all those wonderful, oven-baked meat juices.

It's not surprising you find merlot popping up alongside cabernet sauvignon in plenty of recently-planted Tuscan vineyards. The fresh acidity of young Chianti made from traditional sangiovese wine grapes can make a great match with young spring lamb, but it doesn't allow the silky smooth finish that well made, cool climate Merlot can provide.

Besides, variety is the spice of life. We don't need to maintain a strict diet of expensive Burgundy and cool climate pinot noir just to show how committed we are to the pursuit of red wine's Holy Grail.

This latest merlot follows in the footsteps of previous releases. It's a well constructed wine that's built on the solid foundations of healthy, ripe fruit. We've always believed that in cool climate Tasmania, merlot cropping levels need to be closely controlled in order to avoid the unattractive green characters that mar less than perfect examples.

The wine displays plenty of colour and aroma in the glass. The variety's typical ripe plum and red currant notes combine well with the subtle, oak-derived vanillin characters that have resulted from ageing in new French barriques. Vintage 2009's mix of generosity and roundness is reflected in the wine's palate. It's youthful and vibrant, with just the right amount of full ripe flavour to balance the wine's supple tannins and lingering acidity. Mmmm ... Dare we say, it's even mellow.



Cheers!

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