

MENTELLE NOTES

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The Cape Mentelle team raise their glasses to longevity at the Wallcliffe Vineyard.

Maturity Matters

According to the Cape Mentelle team vine age deserves more attention than it gets.

Getting old isn't exactly on anyone's wish list. Unless of course you are a viticulturist or a motivated winemaker. And then age does count, positively, especially if you are tending grape vines. Old vines with thick trunks and expansive root systems may deliver lower yields but inevitably flavours are deeper and more complex and provided these venerable vines are nurtured, the final palate profile should display great texture, balance and persistence. Many memorable old vine wines simply take time.

The cabernet sauvignon vines on Cape Mentelle's Wallcliffe Vineyard are 54-years-old, which is an industry accepted qualifier for 'old vine' status. The foundation vineyard was established by David Hohnen in 1970 and is now proudly listed on the merit-worthy global Old Vine Registry.

According to the pundits, to qualify for old vine status plantings need to be at least 50-plus years. An esteemed age according to Andrew Caillard MW who stressed at his Sydney *Australian Ark* book launch (see *History Lesson*) that we need to do

more to highlight Australia's heritage vines and wines. Not just responsible vineyard managers and winemakers, but retailers and wine lovers too.

That's one of the reasons Cape Mentelle is planning to feature its heritage moving forward, specifically to showcase the immense benefits gifted by well-tended mature vines.

In fact, late last year the International Wine and Spirit Competition heralded Cape Mentelle's commitment to its history and old vines by awarding CMV Chief of Winemaking

has demonstrated a holistic approach to preserving their old vines.' Their citation highlights extensive work undertaken over the past decade to maintain soil health and the deployment of pruning techniques to reduce yield to deliver better balance and vine health. They were also impressed by the company's nursery program ensuring access to heritage vine material for future plantings, and by the in-house focus on custodianship.

'Our heritage vines are less affected by seasonal variation, which we attribute to deep root systems and soil health conjured by inter-row cover crops and compost application,' explains David Moulton, who has long championed the old vine program at Cape Mentelle.

His other weapon is precision viticulture (PV) a calibrated system designed to ensure targeted application of compost and other nutrients instrumental for vine health. Simply put the more mature vines get more attention.

'PV helps us identify sections of old vine blocks that require particular TLC,' continues Dave enthusiastically. One can't help thinking he is really the viticultural equivalent of a personal trainer. Watching his vines reach up to the wire, stretching towards the sun, bulking up with a canopy that is honed to facilitate peak ripeness and performance. You get the vinous work-out drift...

'Cape Mentelle has demonstrated a holistic approach to preserving their old vines.'

INTERNATIONAL WINE & SPIRIT COMPETITION

and Viticulture David Moulton and his team the IWSC 2023 Old Vine Trophy. Other finalists included another WA vintner Clairault Streiker, Canada's Hester Creek Estate and Terre Paisible in South Africa.

According to the judges 'Cape Mentelle

Thoughts of maturity and aligned sentiments like 'Age shall not weary them...' are especially apt when appreciating that these magnificent five-decade-old vines remind us every vintage that ageing gracefully counts. Especially if you are an old cabernet vine.

New Releases

Four up and ready to roll – two to chill and two reds of exceptional calibre. These wines are available to members of the **Cape Mentelle Wine Club**, online shoppers and at Cellar Door. If you have any queries please contact the helpful Cape Mentelle staff.
T: 08 9757 0812 or
E: cellardoor@capementelle.com.au

CAPE MENTELLE ROSÉ 2023

• *Delicate* • *Ethereal* • *Pure*

A unique blend of shiraz and grenache harvested in the cool of the night.

‘Rose petal aromas meet wild strawberries leading to a summery palate of watermelon, pomegranate and fresh lime; crisp acidity and salivating minerality.’ Unequivocal, pure and most memorable.

CAPE MENTELLE WALLCLIFFE SAUVIGNON BLANC 2021

• *Soulful* • *Illuminating* • *Exploratory*

Not the traditional Margs blend of semillon and sauvignon but pure singular sauvignon blanc...

‘Opens with notes of guava, passionfruit and florals with smidges of savoury spice. Fine palate expressing lemon curd, nashi pear and toasted almond. Add a mineral frame and the best French oak for longevity.’

Well Read

At *Mentelle Notes* HQ we feel it’s important to note that while we were slightly diverted (by a pandemic and transition to new ownership) a milestone was reached.

After delving into the archives it has been discovered that the Cape Mentelle newsletter *Mentelle Notes* has been continuously published since 1982. Yup 40-plus years!

Irreverence, humility, humour and some big by-lines have been, and will continue to be, its hallmark. Over four decades contributors have included the intrepid Michael Palin, Clement Freud, UK wine writers Robert Joseph and Jancis Robinson OBE, two Aussie Tims – Winton and Flannery, UK novelist Douglas Kennedy, local humourists Wendy Harmer and Morris Gleitzman – and countless more wonderful wordsmiths. In fact Morris is back for this issue to focus on the dilemmas of wine-drinking baby-boomers.

CAPE MENTELLE SHIRAZ 2020

• *Bold* • *Generous* • *Expressive*

Reach for this latest release Shiraz if your palate is primed for smooth, lush, harmonious shiraz. Crafted from parcels of carefully selected grapes from three separate vineyards – Crossroads provides the frame, the home block adds power and Chapman Brook layers of elegance.

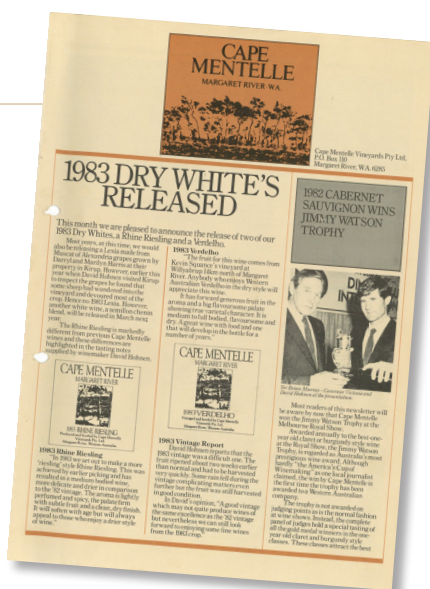
‘Think dark berries, plums, cacao and white pepper plus elevated fragrance and polished tannins, velvety palate and a vibrant finish.’ Perfect pair for mushroom risotto.

CAPE MENTELLE HERITAGE CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2020

• *Precise* • *Intense* • *Elegant*

Stands testimony to the estate’s oldest vines consistently delivering power, elegance and opulence.

‘Seduces with aromas of blueberry and dark berries and soft florals underpinned by briar and soft leather. Great energy, richness and opulence with warm cassis and pastilles, a waft of bay leaf and fine tannins. A mature vine wine that will evolve exceptionally with additional ageing.’



So sip, sip, hooray to *Mentelle Notes* and its contributors. But before you browse on, we’re wondering if you know of any other winery newsletters that can boast four uninterrupted decades? Jot a note to the still-in-the-saddle editor (there have only been two) info@capementelle.com.au because we’d like to congratulate them!

Wine Club

Suddenly we are into another year, time to talk about our enticing 2024 **Wine Club Offers** and **July Wine Club Packs**.

We are pleased to highlight the advent of two exclusive Museum Releases available to all club members – the *Cape Mentelle Single Vineyard Shiraz 2015* hand-picked from Trinders Block 5, awarded 98 Points by the *Halliday Wine Companion* – ‘Has remarkable elegance, purity and energy.’

The second aged release is *Cape Mentelle Shiraz 2013* scoring an equally pleasing 95 Points in the *Halliday Wine Companion* and a power-packed call-out recommendation – ‘A savoury rocket.’

These two distinguished red wines are available online to members only. Just log in for these special treats and head to the **Wine Club Back Vintage** list.



CLUB PACK PREVIEW

The next **Mentelle Explorers** six-pack features three vintages of our iconic Zinfandel, a must for the zin-fu! It also includes a pre-release Shiraz and two classic whites: *Zinfandel* (2017, 2018, 2019), *Shiraz* (2020 pre-release), *Wallcliffe Sauvignon Blanc* (2020), *Chardonnay* (2021).

Alternatively the next **Mentelle Collection** features a great mix of meticulously cellared museum and current release wines: *Heritage Cabernet Sauvignon* (2011), *Cabernet Sauvignon* (2020), *Two Vineyards Shiraz* (2016), *Zinfandel* (2017), *Wallcliffe Sauvignon Blanc Semillon* (2016), *Chardonnay* (2021).

If you are not a member of our wine club and would like to join, please scan the QR Code for more details. We can’t wait to meet you!



SUPPORTING SUSTAINABILITY

We wish to thank club members who received their deliveries in repurposed wine boxes. This simple gesture means we were able to donate to Margaret River Nature Conservation to support the Waatu Kaatijin (Ocean Learning) program run by Wadandi Elders representing Australia’s first Educational Marine Area.

Swell Cabernets

Angus Hughson reports on the 2023 Cape Mentelle International Cabernet Tasting.

Pics: Ovis Creative



The history of Cape Mentelle's annual Cabernet Tasting is really quite phenomenal.

There are now dozens of such tastings held around the world, and for a number of different grape varieties. David Hohnen's visionary event, first held in 1982, was a dramatic leap of faith, not only for Australia but for a region just starting to hit its straps.

Hohnen clearly believed that Margaret River could one day make some of the world's greatest cabernet sauvignon and time has proven him right. The tasting has also played its part in driving local self-belief and understanding of top-flight cabernet among the region's winemakers.

Again late last year wine professionals and enthusiasts gathered to attend the **41st Cape Mentelle International Cabernet Tasting** – one of the most highly anticipated Cab Tastings in years, an examination of the stellar 2020 vintage, particularly in Bordeaux and Western Australia.

Naturally tasters are all doing their best not only to identify the top wines but also their origins. The 2020 vintage wines, chosen by the team at Cape Mentelle, may have come

as a surprise to some attendees, spanning cab contenders from Australia, France, New Zealand, Chile and South Africa, joined by China's Helan Mountain flagship Xiao Feng from Ningxia. It was an impressive addition and had many of us placing it as a classed growth Bordeaux.

When I first attended the Cabernet Tasting back in 2008, for the 2004 vintage, the Australian contingent was just a little off the pace against Bordeaux's best. What was perhaps most noticeable this time was how, at least for 2020, this was no longer the case and the top wines from Margaret River were truly neck and neck, preference now being more a question of style than quality.

The 20 wines were broken into three brackets. No easing in on Bracket 1, which saw some big guns from Margaret River, Frankland River and Bordeaux facing off, joined by the Chinese entrant. Bordeaux was represented by two highly regarded Second Growths – Saint-Estèphe's Château Montrose and Château Léoville Poyferré from Saint-Julien. The Montrose was all class, poised, strong and composed, and built for the long-term. The Château Léoville Poyferré was considerably bigger, a more muscular wine with serious tannins and will age well.

The local wines were very well represented. The bold single vineyard Jack Mann from Frankland River is modern and a little oaky at this young age but with undeniable quality. The three Margaret River wines acquitted themselves very well. Cherubino's Reserve label, the best of the day, with an attractive mix of delicacy and power, while the Cullen

Rothschild up against Yarra Yering's Carrodus, Vasse Felix Tom Cullity alongside Deep Woods Reserve, Destiny Bay and Leeuwin Estate Art Series.

On the day it was a boil over as both the Ornellaia and Château Mouton Rothschild were topped by the classically structured Tom Cullity, the gorgeously complex Deep Woods, the perfumed Leeuwin Estate and the powerful yet refined Destiny Bay.

The final bracket was perhaps the most challenging to taste, with wines from Hawkes Bay, Stellenbosch, Bordeaux and Chile's Maipo Valley against two highly fancied Margaret River entrants – Xanadu Reserve and Cape Mentelle.

With the exception of the Stellenbosch Le Riche, this was a stunning set of wines, each with their unique style. Château Beychevelle has long over delivered for a Fourth Growth and did so again with a beautifully tight composed blend of cabernet, merlot and a touch of petit verdot. The Chilean entrant, Concha y Toro's flagship Don Melchor, was flamboyant yet held tight by a firm tannin seam, while Craggy Range's The Quarry was finer and fragrant. In comparison the Xanadu Reserve was complex and finely tuned, a little shy but with all elements in place to age extremely well.

The Cape Mentelle Cabernet was a different story and wore its Margaret River origins proudly with beautifully expressive aromas and wonderful purity of pretty fruit with a superbly balanced tannin frame and overall energy that will see it build over the next two decades.

'The top wines from Margaret River were truly neck and neck...'

Diane Madeline and Victory Point Reserve were both more refined and ethereal.

The surprise packet of the bracket was the Helan Mountain Xiao Feng which, while not the most concentrated offering, had excellent shape, fruit definition and tannin quality that will see it sail through the next two decades.

In terms of reputation, Bracket Two was probably the leader as it brought together international superstars Ornellaia and Bordeaux First Growth Château Mouton

Once again, this year's Cape Mentelle Cabernet Tasting showed Margaret River's well-deserved place among the greatest regions of the world for this highly coveted grape variety and it highlighted in spades the foresight of all its pioneers, including Cape Mentelle's David Hohnen.

Angus Hughson is the Australian Editor for Vinous, founder of Wine Pilot and the co-publisher of The Australian Ark.

Glass Half Full

Morris Gleitzman goes to the doctor to plan his cellar...



I think I knew, when the doctor looked up from the pathology report that my life was about to change forever. What I didn't know was that our society and our wine industry might change too. For the better. As with every other major development in wine's history. The introduction of oak, for example. And grapes.

The doctor wasn't thinking about any of this. His face was grim.

'I'm sorry,' he said. 'Five at the most.'

Fortunately, he wasn't talking about months left to live. His verdict wasn't that dire. Not quite.

'Re your drinking,' said the doctor.

'You've got the liver of an elderly person.'

'I am an elderly person,' I said.

'Exactly,' said the doctor. 'From now on, five glasses of wine a week, tops.'

I stared at him in shock. This couldn't be happening. I'm a baby-boomer, born to a life of good fortune. Including a home that generates wealth not just while I'm sleeping, but also while I'm in the ensuite.

For a moment I felt a painful but deeply moving empathy with all less-fortunate demographic groups. Then I pulled myself together and searched for ways to maximise my return from those five glasses.

I found a Pilates venue that offered age-appropriate wine-related body work. Forget tantric sex, I wanted tantric tasting.

And naturally I poured my entire weekly wine budget into those five glasses. Well, four glasses actually, given the evaporation rate when you take 18 hours to drink each one.

No more furtive scanning of the discount

bins in my local bottle shop. Straight to the top row. Except even up there the quality wasn't high enough for my new rarefied drinking regime.

'I need a higher shelf,' I said to the shop owner.

He looked at me doubtfully. Then nodded to the stairs at the back of the shop.

'Up there,' he said. 'The best stuff's under the bed.'

And it was. Exquisite wine from sublime vintages, temperature-controlled by the draft coming between the floorboards, aged perfectly, with a low evaporation rate.

'I found a Pilates venue that offered age-appropriate wine-related body work.'

The next time the millennials in my family came to dinner, they watched emotionally as I poured myself 71.42% of a glass.

'We're so glad you're looking after yourself,' they said. 'There's hardly anything we want more than you having a long healthy life.'

As I thanked them, they noticed the aroma coming from my glass. They took a sip. And another. Then finished the bottle.

I had mixed feelings about this. Watching your week's allocation slip down the throats of others, even nearest and dearest throats, does cause a twinge on the middle palate.

Looked at another way, though, it was a glorious thing to behold. The wine industry has been on its knees, or at least on its elbows with its head in its hands, for some time,

as large numbers of 20- and 30-somethings decline to drink anything but craft beer and even craftier gin. If this scene at my place was playing out at the tables of other medically restrained wine-buffs, we might be seeing the rebirth of a lost market-segment.

The rebirth did falter briefly when my millennials went to the bottle shop, saw the price of what they'd just tasted, recoiled, and banged their heads on the bed-slats.

But as members of a less-lucky generation, they've had to learn retail canniness. So, after speedy online research, they came back with some of the best under \$30 bottles I've ever tasted. Bottles that would be even better with a bit of short-term cellaring.

'See?' said one of the younger folk a few hours later, as I finally swallowed. 'The ancient sages were right. You can reach tantric heights at sensible price-points.'

'And,' said another, 'think of the money you'll be saving.'

Slowly and patiently, I explained that as we get older, money is no longer the most precious currency. Time becomes the valuable medium of exchange, even though some exchanges are a total rip-off. Pendulous for pert, for example, and mumbling for memory.

The millennials looked at me sadly.

'When we say saving,' they murmured, 'we mean in a bank account. Possibly for the benefit of the less fortunate younger generation.'

I stared at them, the penny eventually dropping even more than crypto.

'Forgive me,' I said. 'My generation has a lot of blind spots, and not just because we drive very big SUVs. I hear what you're saying. That just once in your life, you'd like to own a home.'

They nodded.

For the second time that week I felt a surge of painful but deeply moving empathy. Then I pulled myself together, sold my house and bought a large, temperature-controlled cellar.

Which I gave to them. We're all living in it now, millennials, kids, grandparents and sensibly priced wine. All, I'm pleased to report, aging well.

Morris Gleitzman is known for his children's books. The next is titled Tweet (due out in April). Morris has been a contributor to Mentelle Notes for over 25 years.

Take Four

Meet Cape Mentelle's key winemaking and viticulture team...

Pic: Nikita Booth



Dave Moulton and Annabel Angland

The past year has seen some significant changes unfold at Cape Mentelle. Not the least the new ownership by Paragon Wine Estates, a division of the Australian-owned Endeavour Group. And new brooms inevitably trigger new projects.

There are many exciting developments on the horizon at Cape Mentelle and they will be implemented by David Moulton the designated chief of winemaking and viticulture along with his team – senior winemaker Coralie Lewis and winemaker Camille Bru. In the vineyard he is supported by viticulturist Annabel Angland.

Dave (as he prefers) is a true local born in Busselton. He studied oenology and viticulture at Curtin University and joined Cape Mentelle 10 years ago. Regular MN readers will already know he is a lateral thinker and a stickler for quality with a passion for sustainability and heritage. He also loves the ocean. Dead ringer for the role!

Beside him stand three immensely capable women. Senior winemaker Coralie Lewis who was born and studied wine in south-western France and worked with Bordeaux Chateaux Cheval Blanc and Beychevelle before pursuing her love of cabernet all the way to Margaret River. She joined Cape Mentelle in 2015, married a local and now leads the winery



Coralie Lewis and Camille Bru

team in the making of the company's expanding portfolio.

Coralie is assisted by another Bordelais winemaker Camille Bru whose internship at Chateau Latour is deemed responsible for her me-too passion for the king of the red grapes, cabernet sauvignon. A wine science masters degree and global vineyard travels eventually led her to Cape Mentelle in 2019. Five years on she admits that there is more to a winemaker's life than cab sav.

And she will be the first to admit all good wines are made in the vineyard – which is where Annabel Angland steps up. A Kiwi, Annabel grew up on sheep and beef farms before turning to grapes and vines. She studied at Lincoln University and worked in Marlborough and Central Otago where in 2020 she won the regional division of the Young Viticulturist of the Year. Later in 2021 she too followed the lure to Margaret River and Cape Mentelle. Now in her role as viticulturist Annabel drives vineyard sustainability innovations and is an integral member of the technical team.

The Cape Mentelle crew is committed to crafting an exciting portfolio of peerless wines that echo the traditions of the company founded over 50 years ago. So expect waves to be made...

Vintage Report

Keen weather buffs will know it's been an ideally warm summer in WA, and while Margaret River enjoys frequent sea breezes, the air con has been on high. The consistent warm weather means the 2024 vintage kicked off at the end of January, three weeks ahead of last year and one of the earliest vintage starts ever.

The beneficial dry ripening conditions have conjured up stunning flavoured-packed chardonnay grapes at our Chapman Brook vineyard, the first hand-pick by the whole team destined for our *Cape Mentelle Heritage Chardonnay*. Balanced yields and vibrant intensity mark the 2024 whites.

It's still too early to offer descriptors for the reds but they are ticking over nicely, which will result in excellent tannin ripeness. Also pleasing is this season's bountiful marri blossom that diverts the pesky silver eyes and reduces the need for bird netting. Rest assured the fat lady won't sing until the petit verdot is in the fermenter.

In the winery the team has needed to think laterally. After 20-plus years the call was made to purchase a new press but supply chain disruptions and the early vintage start meant the trusty Willmes and Bucher presses are both working overtime until the shiny new unit arrives on the crush pad. Coralie is patiently handling Dave's daily enquiries on the press due date. Grape-stained fingers doubly crossed.



Pic: Ovis Creative

History Lesson

Arks conjure notions of wooden boats and rescued animals but the latest major ark to float is less buoyant. Wine historian Andrew Caillard MW has spent over a decade compiling a definitive history of Australian wine, a trilogy weighing in at 5-plus kilos. *The Australian Ark* is a massive undertaking and a vital chronology of our wine industry pioneers. Turn to Volume 2 the 'Kaleidoscopic

Years' (aka 1970s) for an account of the early days of Cape Mentelle and Margaret River.

'There was no eureka moment; rather it was a combustion of ideas and efforts that first slowly then rapidly took hold...' notes Caillard. Flip the page and you'll spot the evidence, replicated here. Cape Mentelle's founder David Hohnen (2nd from left) with his vineyard development crew.

Don't miss this rollicking read. www.australianark.com



Mentelle Activity

Mentelle Notes readers will be aware of the long-running **Mentelle Ambassador** program. Started several decades ago, this ‘happy snap’ competition encourages fans to capture that Cape Mentelle moment. Now with ever-ready mobile phones it’s just so easy to participate.

It’s simple. Take a photo of you and your favourite bottle of Cape Mentelle – one that you have discovered in a far-flung exotic location, or one that you had in your backpack while trekking high mountains, kayaking remote rivers or cruising the Antarctic. Or one you took to Nana for her 90th birthday. Quirky and adventurous is a hallmark for eligible entrants.

Then send your pic (high res please) to: info@capementelle.com.au for a chance to WIN a Six-pack of Cape Mentelle wine. The CMV team will pick a winning image that will be published on social media and in the next issue of *Mentelle Notes*.



So now, meet the latest **Mentelle Ambassador**, Scott McAllister from Darwin and his ingenious corkscrew deployed, while camping at Mary River Wildness Retreat (NT) to open a birthday bottle of *Cape Mentelle Two Vineyards Shiraz 2016*. Look closely. It’s a tent peg loaned by a fellow camper to get the good red flowing for the toast. It did the trick.

Must

CAPE MENTELLE CABERNET TASTING
Friday 15 November
Cape Mentelle Winery
E: cabernet.tasting@capementelle.com.au



Fly High

*‘Fly me to the moon
Let me play among the stars
Let me see what spring is like on
Jupiter and Margs...’**

OK wine-loving jetsetters here is some good news! Later this month Jetstar is launching a regular direct Sydney to Busselton service (commencing late March 2024) to complement the existing east coast route from Melbourne to Busselton. The perfect opportunity for a wine infused mini-break in WA’s south-west.

When planning your trip be sure to remember to book a Cape Mentelle private tour and tasting. Several options are available indulging from 30 mins at Cellar Door to the full-immersion two-hour tasting with local produce in the old Vat Room. Frank Sinatra and Count Basie would have loved it!

Bookings: www.capementelle.com.au/Cellar-Door/Tours-and-Tastings

* With apologies to Frank Sinatra and Count Basie

Masters in Margs

Cape Mentelle was delighted to co-host the recent regional immersion tour by a global Masters of Wine group. The 19 students travelled from the USA, Greece, Japan, Singapore, China and Hong Kong. At CMV the group delved into sustainability with an in-depth look at chardonnay and cabernet sauvignon – viticulture, clones plus a cabernet clonal barrel tasting. Other diversions included a chardonnay masterclass at neighbours Voyager Estate, while more cabernet starred at Vasse Felix. Seems the region earned MW high fives.

Pic: Ovis Creative



Latest Drops

CAPE MENTELLE CHARDONNAY 2021

‘Captures the vintage to perfection. Aromas are lightly fragrant with high florals...subtle saline character emerging. The palate has a fine crunchy feel with pear, cut lime and brioche richness...I like this less opulent direction.’

95 POINTS, Ray Jordan
WA WINE REVIEW 2024

‘Gleaming pale gold and such an alluring nose. The complexity is immediately evident with wonderful floral notes, stone fruits and vanillin oak, finely integrated... Balanced, exhibiting finesse and exceptional length... the hallmarks of this stunning chardonnay.’

96 POINTS, Ken Gargett
WINE PILOT

CAPE MENTELLE HERITAGE CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2020

‘Powerhouse cabernet of immense fruit concentration...yet showing poise and effortless control. Blackcurrant, dark chocolate...and black olive characters emerge immediately on the nose. The palate is loaded with great intensity with a chalky tannin slightly graphite edge through to the long finish.’

97 POINTS, Ray Jordan
WA WINE REVIEW 2024

CAPE MENTELLE CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2020

‘Complex leathery nose with aromas of ripe plummy fruits seasoned by spicy and nutty nuances and plenty of glossy oak aromas. Brilliant structure, solid palate.’

95 POINTS, DECANter

‘Fragrant with mulberries, cassis, nori and baking spices, the medium-bodied palate is superfine and long with textural tannins adding to the pleasure.’

95 POINTS, Jane Faulkner
HALLIDAY WINE COMPANION 2024

‘Ripe smoky toasty bouquet with a trace of nori, rose-petal/pot-pourri too, with stylish oak treatment swelling from the glass. Tobacco/leafy notes and mellowing mulberry cabernet fruit. Full-bodied but fleshy/supple and rich, the texture excellent and the line seamless. Not a big wine for this marque, but very enjoyable already and has a big future.’

95 POINTS, Huon Hooke
THE REAL REVIEW