

PIKES

CLARE VALLEY

Established 1984

2024 'RISING GROUND' CABERNET FRANC

WINEMAKER'S NOTE

After an average winter rainfall, our soil profile was full, giving the vines a great start to the growing season. Following early bud burst, a bad frost event hit some parts of the valley in late October. Spring was dry, but thunderstorms in November and December helped setup our vine canopies. A warm, dry harvest with low disease pressure allowed grape intake to run extremely smoothly. Red varieties had lower yields but good fruit concentration and deep colours.

The aromatic nature of this variety has shaped our approach to embrace the spice and perfume characteristics of the wine. We use spontaneous fermentation and gentle cap management using compressed air to protect these qualities.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Fruit Source: Estate Grown

Variety: Cabernet Franc

Vintage: 2024

Region: Polish Hill River

Fermentation: Wild ferment, closed fermenters

Maturation: 8 months in seasoned French barrique

Alc/Vol 13.5%

pH 3.45 **TA** 6.0 g/L

ABOUT PIKES

Pikes Wines is grounded by family. From brothers to sons, since 1984 when the Pike family first stepped foot on Polish Hill River soil and decided to make wine together.

Our site is unique, with tough acidic soils overlaying ancient dark grey siltstone of the Kadlunga Slate formation, which has lay beneath Polish Hill River for 650 million years.

Our wine style is elegant and refined, yet approachable. A style that has been forged over many years by geology and geography, viticultural learnings, and a hands-off winemaking approach.

Pikes Tasting Room

233 Polish Hill Road, Sevenhill, South Australia 5453

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Tasting Room: open daily, from 10am - 4pm

Slate Restaurant: Lunch from 12pm Wed - Sun, Dinner from 6pm Sat

TASTING NOTES

Appearance: Medium cherry red.

Aroma: Leafy blackcurrant and red berries, with a touch of baking spices and a bit of varietal minty lift that reveals over time and invites further exploration.

Palate: Beautifully medium weighted with bright red fruits of cherries and fresh raspberries, and darker berries of blackcurrant and blueberries. The freshness of the fruit is balanced with a savoury backbone of spices like dried sage, mint and clove with the fresh acid line meshing into lovely fine-grained tannins and giving a delightful long finish.

Summary: Cabernet Franc is an unsung hero in the Clare Valley, a largely silent contributor to many of the region's best Cabernets, but increasingly getting a chance to shine on its own. This release of the "Rising Ground", due to its elevated vineyard plots on our property, is a wonderful example of the variety and has been heralded by our Chief Winemaker as our best release to date. Drink upon release or within the next 5 years. Try with Moroccan spiced slow-cooked lamb.

