



VINTNER & GROWER  ESTABLISHED 1895

2009 FIREBELLE

WINEMAKER NOTES:

Very deep ruby red color. Wonderful aromatic intensity – floral violets, black cherry, blackcurrant, sweet thyme & cedar then complex secondary notes of soy and game. Lively exuberant palate entry then immediate density of blackberry and cassis fruit. Bold, rich and youthfully assertive but retains inner-mouth perfume and energetic brightness. Lingering chewy tannins on a flavor-packed finish.

Our 2009 Firebelle bottling is a wine of true character in the authentic Larkmead style. At this early release stage it's bound up in its youthful exuberance, drive and freshness. It needs some time to unfold, relax and open up. But it's a dynamic wine that really expands in the glass with some air offering that beautiful echoing Larkmead signature throughout. It's the product of a very low-yielding vine crop which means that it's packed full of natural vineyard density and structure, yet our wine making approach ensures that it retains plenty of brightness and energy. On first opening the wine's full of ripe sunshine-filled fruit but with time this mellows then recedes allowing the full complex vineyard character to emerge. Expect eight to ten years of developing complexity in bottle and decant for an hour in the first three years following release.

- ANDY SMITH, WINEMAKER

Dark red fruit, flowers, spices and licorice are some of the many notes that emerge from this impeccable, totally classy wine. It can be enjoyed now, but there is more than enough freshness to allow the wine to age gracefully for a number of years. Darker notes of tar and iron add considerable depth and muscle to the finish. Anticipated maturity: 2012–2021.

- 93 POINTS, ANTONIO GALLONI, *THE WINE ADVOCATE*, ISSUE 198, 12-23-11



PRODUCTION:
902 Cases

FRUIT:
100% Estate grown fruit, produced and bottled at
Larkmead Vineyards

VARIETAL COMPOSITION:
53% Merlot, 29% Cabernet Sauvignon
10% Petit Verdot, 5% Malbec &
3% Cabernet Franc

AGING:
Aged for 17 months in 55% new French oak
barrels

COOPERAGES:
Tonnelleries Bossuet & Sylvain

