

2018 PENLEY ESTATE HELIOS CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Review Summary



PenleyEstate

95 pts “Wild yeast-open fermented, one batch kept on skins for extended maceration, matured for 18 months in French oak (40% new). The palate is medium to full-bodied with a wealth of blackcurrant, mulberry and cherry fruit. Oak is well and truly in play, as one might expect. The long, supple back-palate is very good.”

James Halliday
Halliday Wine Companion
August 1, 2020

94 pts “Fragrant, powerful and bold, offering a dense mix of star anise, black licorice and dark chocolate flavors, with details of candied ginger, mahogany and sarsaparilla, all mingling around a core of cassis and plum notes. The tannins are firm, but show a touch of velvet. The concentration and complexity gain momentum on the finish.”

MaryAnn Worobeic
Wine Spectator
April 29, 2020

93 pts “From what was initially lauded as an outstanding vintage for Coonawarra, Penley Estate's 2018 Helios Cabernet Sauvignon is one of the first of the vintage's top wines I've tasted from bottle. It doesn't disappoint. Deep cassis fruit is accented by hints of cedar and exotic spices, including hints of cardamom and cinnamon. In the mouth, this medium-bodied wine is surprisingly airy and lithe with supple tannins. Not a conventional blockbuster, it's built on elegance and silk, with bright fruit and acids and a crisp, focused finish. I suppose it will disappoint those looking for something Napa-esque, but it appears to take its cue from recent vintages of Wynn's John Riddoch bottling, offering something more balanced and drinkable—and perhaps a truer reflection of Coonawarra Cabernet.”

Joe Czerwinski
Robert Parker Wine Advocate
May 14, 2020