

THISTLEDOWN WINE COMPANY



'SHE'S ELECTRIC' GRENACHE 2019

McLaren Vale, Australia

Technical Notes

This comes from a dry grown, 70 year old bush vine vineyard in the Seaview district of McLaren Vale, overlooking the Onkaparinga gorge. Farmed using organic principles, the wide spacing, small vines and extensive cover crops give this vineyard a distinctly natural feel. The low yielding vines (1.5 ton/acre) with good, open canopies, allowed for perfectly ripe fruit to be hand-picked with bright fruit and crisp natural acidity. 50% of the fruit is destemmed and very lightly crushed while leaving the rest as whole bunches. Gentle treading of the grapes resulted in a natural fermentation and during this process, the fruit was hand plunged twice daily. Once pressed off, the wine underwent malolactic fermentation in barrel before an 8 month stay in older, 300 & 500 litre French oak barrels. Finally, the wine was bottled without any fining or filtration. A mere 675 bottles produced.

UPC CODE: 858441006958

About this Wine

A hugely important wine for Thistledown as this helped to redefine what contemporary, old vine Grenache is all about. This is a single vineyard project inspired by a remarkable, typically Australian tale. When Thistledown visited the first time, it was noticeable that there was a patch of young vines in the middle of the old vine plot. It turns out that there had been a power cut and during the outage some birds perched on a power line that crosses the vineyard. As the electricity surged through the line again, a combustible bird fell to the ground and set fire to the vineyard, destroying half of the original vines making a scarce resource even scarcer. Thankfully half of the vines survived and the fruit used for this wine, is from the older part of the vineyard. Perhaps showing his age, Giles immediately thought of the song She's Electric by UK band Oasis, and from that moment on, the name became synonymous with this incredible old vineyard. Drawing on the themes of energy and current, Thistledown pick this wine early which, when combined with the wild, 50% whole bunch ferment and gentle plunges ensures a wine that may be pale, but is oh so aromatic, textural and infused with wild red fruits, herbs and minerals with layers of flavor that unfurl across the tongue.

Wine Analysis

Alcohol: 13.5%
Total Acidity: 5.8 g/l
pH: 3.62
Residual Sugar: <1 g/l

- ✓ VEGAN FRIENDLY
- ✓ SUSTAINABLE
- ✗ ORGANIC
- ✗ BIODYNAMIC

Vintage Conditions

Though the season was late, cool and sometimes damp, it ended with lower than average rainfall. Above average rainfall in July and August filled soil profiles and dams but from then on the season was very dry. Dry weather characterized the 2018 vintage and the low disease pressure coupled with ideal conditions for flowering and early development set the vines up excellently. With virtually no rainfall between January and April, fruit quality in all areas was very good though some heat stress in February led to isolated defoliation.

Scores/Reviews

96 pts James Halliday
96 pts James Suckling
92 pts Huon Hooke
(2018 – 96 pts James Halliday, 94 pts Decanter, 93 pts James Suckling, 91 pts Wine Advocate)

Tasting Note

The aromatic, perfumed aromas on the nose lead through to a delicate yet vibrant palate of spiced wild strawberry fruit, violets and cinnamon. Energetic and almost crisp on the palate. A touch leaner profile than some might expect, but nervy and focused, with laser like precision and length. Textured, enticing and delicious.

