

THISTLEDOWN WINE COMPANY



'THE CHARMING MAN' GRENACHE 2021

Clarendon, McLaren Vale, Australia

Technical Notes

This remarkable site has vines that are 100+ years old. The entire site, high in the picturesque Clarendon sub-region of McLaren Vale, is planted entirely with dry grown bush vines and has been farmed by the same family for 3 generations. This wine is sourced from one particular block where the canopy is raised slightly higher above the ground, allowing for better air circulation and increased radiated sunlight. Hand-picked on March 18th and transported to the winery, where 20% was retained as whole bunches to be placed on the base of a 2 ton open fermenter. The fruit underwent a wild fermented and was gently hand plunged twice a day during that time. After that, the wine was pressed off, into 300 liter hogsheads, of which 25% were new French oak. A year later, the wine was racked from there to bottle – unfiltered and unfinned.

UPC CODE: 858441006965

About this Wine

A Sense of Place is something that many winemakers talk about but it's a tricky concept to get across to anyone who has not visited the region or who knows the people involved. In many ways, the "new world" Sense of Place echoes the old world notion of Terroir where the effects of soil, site, aspect, climate and tradition all come to bear on the eventual character and quality of the wine - lending it a unique personality. On a beautiful hillside in the Clarendon sub-region of McLaren Vale, three generations of the Smart family have devoted their lives to Grenache. Decades have passed where precious few valued their crop and yet they endured. That this remarkable vine[1]yard has survived, is all due to Bernard Smart, and this wine pays homage to this charming man.

Wine Analysis

Alcohol: 14.5%
Total Acidity: 6.06 g/l
pH: 3.34
Residual Sugar: 1 g/l
SO2: 74 mg/l

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

Vintage Conditions

Rare is the vintage that combines good yields and high quality but 2021 was just that. A remarkable vintage in that it was once again pandemic affected but that it was measured and mild with none of the heat spikes or drought conditions of recent years. With good levels of winter rains filling soil profiles, the mild weather with intermittent rains throughout the growing and ripening season ensured that fruit ripened over a long period of time and the vintage was one of the longest in recent history. The results are spectacular.

Tasting Note

From a near perfect vintage for the site, this wine displays muscular yet elegant silky black fruits couple with deep, rich, warming spices, hints of violet, mineral and black cherry. Depth, persistence, focus – it's all here, in spades!

Scores/Reviews

96pts The Wine Front (Gary Walsh)
Floral and perfumed, spicy biscuit, red fruit. Very fine and fresh, a cranberry flavour and dryness to acidity, distinct 'mineral' feel, firm emery tannin, boysenberry and red fruits, and a little pepper on a long bright finish. Lovely. So lacy and delicate. It's somewhere between 95 and 96 points, but as I'm keen on a Grenache that's light and frisky, I've gone towards the latter score.

(2020' 97 JS, 95 JH)
(2019' 97 JS, 96 JH, 93 HH, 91 WA)

