

THISTLEDOWN WINE COMPANY



'SHE'S ELECTRIC' GRENACHE 2021

McLaren Vale, Australia

Technical Notes

This comes from a dry grown, 70 year old bush vine vineyard, on red-brown sandy loams with quartz and ironstone, 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 2839 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: 14.5%
Total Acidity: 5.26 g/l
pH: 3.87
Residual Sugar: 1 g/l
SO2: 78 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

Aromatic and lifted on the nose with a beautifully layered, textural palate with wild strawberry and spice.

Scores/Reviews

96 Halliday Wine Companion (Ned Goodwin)
95 points – The Real Review (Huon Hooke)

(2020 - 96 JS, 95 JH)
(2019 - 96 JH, 96 JS, 92 HH)
(2018 - 96 JH, 94 DE, 93 JS)

