

THISTLEDOWN WINE COMPANY



'FOOL ON THE HILL' GRENACHE 2024

Eden Valley, South Australia

Technical Notes

One of the highest Grenache vineyards in South Australia, this contoured site high in Eden Valley sits at elevation above the Barossa Valley, with meagre soils strewn with quartz and ironstone. These old bush vine plantings, recently brought back into full health, yield fruit with high intensity, energy and mineral complexity.

The fruit was hand-picked early in the morning before swift transport to the winery where 20% was retained as whole bunches. A gentle wild ferment in concrete pyramid was followed by pressing to large format seasoned French oak, where the wine matured for 11 months before bottling.

2600 Bottles Produced.

About this Wine

As one of the “outsiders” we’ve always been drawn to people with a similarly maverick streak – those willing to do things the hard way. But the path to success is rarely an even, linear one. Doubters, cynics and dilettantes line the path and it takes an iron will to continue on. When the destination is not yet known, or even in sight, one’s sanity may even be questioned. This only seeks to galvanise and to spur one forward.

The Fool on the Hill is sourced from two tiny plots of essentially dry grown bush-vine Grenache, planted by Joel Mattschoss, high in the Eden Valley on soils that require a vine to struggle. It’s a spectacular plot with an unusually bright future, though the impenetrable soils, lack of adequate water and exposure would have led all but the bravest to question the sense of the project.



UPC CODE: 8 50037 77803 4

Wine Analysis

Varietal: 100% Grenache

Alcohol: 14.5%

Total Acidity: 5.7 g/l

pH: 3.6

SO2: 72 mg/l

Residual Sugar: 1 g/l

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

Vintage Conditions

The '24 vintage, being the first El Niño season, was expected to be warm and dry but if anything, the early season conditions were the opposite. Unsettled, cool, and sometimes wet weather resulted in erratic fruit set but from the end of January onwards, the weather was settled and very dry. Aside from a few days of heat in March, the season continued, with the moderate temperatures and mild conditions allowing for picking all varieties at the ideal moment.

Tasting Note

The signature Thistledown lifted aromatics are present but the palate offers more sinew and spice than those from McLaren Vale. Textural, almost chewy but polished dark cherry, mineral and warm spices carry through to a finish of incredible length.

Scores/Reviews

" The 2024 Fool on the Hill Grenache is from Eden Valley, and the wine is abundantly aromatic and eloquent of its place. The wine is aromatically soft, textural and plump in the mouth, with rose petals and blood orange, red apples and redcurrants."

-The Wine Advocate, **97 Points**

- 96 pts Halliday Wine Companion
- 94 pts Wine Enthusiast
- 93 pts James Suckling
- 90 pts Vinous

