



Dandelion Vineyards

2020

'MENAGERIE OF THE BAROSSA'

Grenache - Shiraz - Mataró | Barossa Valley - Australia



NATURAL



VEGAN

Stats

Grapes: 70% Grenache - 25% Shiraz - 5% Mataró

Vineyard: Single site in Gomersal

Vine Age: Average: 48-years-old

Soil Type: Red clay over limestone & ironstone

Viticulture: Sustainable

Fermentation: Native - 100% whole-cluster in stainless steel

Skin Contact: 14 days

Aging: 12 months in seasoned French barriques

Alcohol: 14.5%

pH: 3.55

Total Acidity: 5.8 g/L

Total SO2: 84 ppm

Total Production: 750 cases

UPC: 9342160000522

About

At the end of Zar & Elena's old vine garden path there is a historic 'Menagerie' of three grape varieties, adjoining blocks of Grenache, Shiraz and Mataró at Gomersal in the Barossa. These three grapes have been blended together for much longer than the first vines found their way to Australia, but the Barossa has really become a de facto new-world home for this trinity. The cool night of the Barossa really pull back the reins on the power and intensity that comes with the hot growing days. The '20 vintage in the Barossa saw yields 50% lower than the 10-year average, due to another below-average rainfall winter and spring, temperamental spring weather, leading to reduced fruit set.

Tasting Note

Mild-purple to purple-red; a more opaque rim edge. A bag of boiled lollies mixed with a roadside of dusty blackberry bushes in full fruit. Earth, rose petals, fresh and dried herbs; fennel and sandalwood, and - having said that - the faintest hint of older French oak bouquet. A lesson in grip and texture... Peppercorns atop plummy, dark berry fruit flavors and cherry pith and a pastis/aniseed kick. Dry, very dry; but there, underlying the dark and determined berry fruit foundation, runs a ripe, sliding, slinking acidity. This is a playful mouthful of red wine as much as it is a fully, quietly qualified one. Drinking it is a study in the dialectic.