

Ochota Barrels

2025

'WHERE'S THE POPE?'

Syrah | McLaren Vale - Australia







NATURAL

VEGAN

Stats

Grapes: 100% Syrah

Vineyard: Grancari Vineyard

(Onkaparinga Hills)

Vine Age: 29-years-old

Soil Type: Ironstone over shallow

limestone and heavy schist

Viticulture: Certified organic - dry-

farmed

Fermentation: Native – open-top picking bins (60% whole cluster)

Skin Contact: 15 days

Aging: 4 months in seasoned French

barrique Alcohol: 10.5% pH: 3.47

Total Acidity: 5.6 g/L Total SO2: 67 ppm

Total Production: 142 cases

UPC: None

Reviews

James Suckling | 95 points

About

'Where's the Pope?' is a pioneering thrash/hardcore band from 'Radelaide'. It's also a pioneering response to the queen m-f of a harvest in 2020 in which Taras and Amber didn't have any Adelaide Hills Syrah to play with, as it was pretty much all smoke tainted or the vineyards were destroyed. They had an idea (and they were always good ones...): why not take the Syrah from the insane 'Green Room' site? The idea took shape, and Amber has continued this trend ever since. The schist soils form a diametric point with the partial carbonically macerated, early picked Syrah to find that vortex of calamity and calmness. The 2025 vintage was warm and dry, and most people picked early, resulting in wines with lower ABV than usual. Indeed, this was Amber's first pick of the vintage, on a gorgeous sunny day with not a cloud in the sky.

The fruit was hand-picked and fermented spontaneously with 65% whole clusters in half-ton bins sitting outside the winery. The fruit was left for 15 days with a bit of hand plunging in the latter days. The lots were then basket-pressed to old French barriques with the gross lees. The wine matured for four months then the barrels were gravity fed to tank and left to settle overnight. The wine was bottled with just a small sulfur addition. No fining or filtering.

Tasting Note

Super light on alcohol, but full of flavor, lush and leggy... Redolent of black olive tapenade and crushed leaves on a perfect autumn day. The palate is awash with the same: a gorgeous reminder of life's magic.

