



S.C. Pannell

2023

'LITTLE BRANCH'

Grenache | McLaren Vale - Australia



NATURAL



ORGANIC



VEGAN

Stats

Grapes: 100% Grenache

Vineyard: Little Branch Vineyard – Blewitt Springs

Vine Age: 35-104-years-old

Soil Type: Maslin sand flecked with ironstone over iron-riddled red clay

Viticulture: Practicing organic – dry-farmed

Fermentation: Inoculated – open-top stainless-steel (14% whole-cluster)

Skin Contact: 10 days

Aging: 16 months in a single neutral 18hL French foudre

Alcohol: 14.1%

pH: 1.49

Total Acidity: 5.4 g/L

Total SO2: 64 ppm

Total Production: 200 cases

UPC: 9340076000551

Reviews

The Wine Advocate | 97 points

About

'Little Branch' Grenache reminds us that grace and exuberance are not opposing virtues. Stephen and Fiona became custodians of this extraordinary vineyard in mid-2021. Nine hectares of Grenache in the very heart of the Blewitt Springs sands. Steve has drawn from Grenache not its caricature of sweetness or brute force, but its essential generosity coupled with ethereal allure. It's classic Blewitt Springs terrain, and in Steve's hands, the results are extraordinary.

The 2023 vintage was long and cool, allowing a slow build of flavor and fine natural acidity. The grapes were hand-harvested and cold soaked. The ferment started with a yeast starter and fermented in stainless-steel with roughly 14% whole-clusters and the rest destemmed. After ten days on skins, the lot was pressed to a single large, old, 18hL French vat for aging. After 16 months without any racking the wine was racked to tank where it settled naturally, gently cross-flow filtered and bottled without fining and with a small addition of sulfur.

Tasting Notes

A wine of red earth and crushed raspberries, of dried rose petals carried on warm afternoon air, of spice that whispers rather than declaims. There is a kind of Australian sunlight here, certainly, yet it is filtered through wisdom and restraint. The wine seems to understand that true profundity needn't arrive draped in solemnity; it can laugh, seduce, and nourish all at once. This is Grenache as conversation rather than monologue—transparent to its place, attentive to detail, and animated by that ineffable quality we too casually call drinkability, but which is, in truth, the rare gift of balancing that with a vision for long-term aging.