



S.C. Pannell

2022

SUNRISE 99

Grenache | McLaren Vale - Australia



NATURAL



ORGANIC



VEGAN

Stats

Grapes: 100% Grenache
Vineyard: Little Branch Vineyard - Block 5 (Blewitt Springs)
Vine Age: 103-years-old
Soil Type: Maslin sand flecked with ironstone over iron-riddled red clay
Viticulture: Practicing organic – dry-farmed
Fermentation: Native – open-top stainless-steel fermenter (20% whole-cluster)
Skin Contact: 14 days
Aging: 14 months in a neutral 18hL French foudre
Alcohol: 14.5%
pH: 3.33
Total Acidity: 6.5 g/L
Total SO2: 61 ppm
Total Production: 200 cases

Reviews

The Wine Advocate | 100 points

About

In 2022, the heavens seemed to linger over Blewitt Springs a little longer than usual, granting this ancient patch of Grenache — planted in 1920 and just entering its 99th harvest — a patient and cool season, giving small berries with near-perfect ripeness and composure. From deep beneath the ancient sands of the Little Branch's Block 5 vineyard, these old bush vines speak in a dialect all their own. Steve tends the vines with the intimacy of a vigneron who has pruned each arm by hand, answered the fruit not with technique but with trust — allowing the wine to emerge unforced, seamless and alive, carried gently through old oak and time alone. The result is a Grenache of haunting silk and profound resonance, a representation of power with bridled restraint, understated elegance while commanding attention — a first release that feels nothing like a debut.

The fruit was hand-harvested in the coolest part of the early morning and fermented without any additions with roughly 20% of the bunches left intact and the rest fully destemmed. Fermentation occurred over two weeks with gentle pumpovers and the wine was basket pressed to one single, old, 18hL French foudre for aging. After 14 months the wine was settled naturally in tank and bottled without fining or filtration and only a small addition of sulfur.

Tasting Note

Roses after rain, licorice root, ironstone, tobacco leaf, sea spray, crushed stone, and the haunting sweetness of fruit suspended between earth and air. It moves not with weight but with inevitability—silken yet tensile, profound yet feathered—its flavors unfurling in slow concentric rings.