



OCHOTA BARRELS

Adelaide Hills - Australia

Background

Ochota Barrels, a project started by Taras and Amber Ochota in 2000, is a name that typifies the new wave winemaking scene in South Australia. The concept was to concentrate on the zenith variety of McLaren Vale (Grenache) and the Barossa Valley (Shiraz), find an exceptional old vineyard site in each region, and create vivid, highly textured, small batch, single-vineyard wines. Over the years, the regions and vineyards have evolved slightly, but the focus has remained the same. The Ochotas have always taken a less is more approach to winemaking and have infused their love for music into their wines. In fact, the majority of the wines are named after their favorite bands/songs (Fugazi, Slint, I am the Owl, Texture Like Sun, etc.). Taras once said, "I reckon you can often see the styles of music people like in the wines they make. I like edgy music, rawer, sharper, and my wines tend to be all elbows and knees sticking out." After Taras' untimely death in 2020, Amber has continued to make the same minimalist, single-vineyard wines, honoring Taras' dying wish.

Highlights

- 1** Ochota Barrels is known for its grungy, punk ethos and boundary-pushing, minimalist, small-batch wines.
- 2** These wines have achieved cult status internationally and have helped give rise to South Australia's new wave.
- 3** Since Taras' tragic passing in 2020, his widow, Amber, has continued to make Ochota Barrels wine, honoring his dying wish.

Wines



Reds SRP \$45-140

Common themes with the reds are fragrance, tension, and fine-grained tannins. They lean lighter-bodied, but the flavor is tightly packed. Varieties include Gamay, Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier, Grenache, Syrah, and Mourvèdre.



White SRP \$60

The Chardonnay is laser-focused and highly textured, with a foot in Chablis, an arm in the Jura and a toe in the Adelaide Hills.

Ethos



NATURAL



ORGANIC



VEGAN

Packaging



Experimental

Traditional

Press



Ochota Barrels wines are of high quality and brash personality but perhaps the greatest measure of Ochota's success is how he has broached the conversation about natural wine and given a new currency to Australia's wine image.

- Mike Bennie, The Wine Front