



OCHOTA BARRELS

'THE FUGAZI VINEYARD' GRENACHE

MCLAREN VALE - AUSTRALIA



THE WINE

Taras Ochota's wines have an air of rebellion about them - constantly challenging the status quo. He combines hands-off winemaking with a meticulous attention to detail, embracing a true 'less-is-more' approach, and has been creating some of South Australia's most interesting, and game changing, wines of the last decade. His Fugazi Grenache is a wine that was ahead of its time. It set the tone for a more elegant, pure-fruited, medium-bodied style of McLaren Vale Grenache which is definitely in vogue at the moment. The vineyard was named from a quirk – the post-hardcore punk band Fugazi was playing on Taras and Amber's car stereo as they arrived at the vineyard, which sits on a rise between the Onkaparinga River Gorge and Blewitt Springs in McLaren Vale. The organically dry farmed vineyard was planted in 1947 on rocky ironstone infused with a gravelly, red clay.

The small bunches were hand-picked in early March and brought back to Taras' shed where they underwent a gentle cold soak for one night. The fruit was taken outdoors, 80% whole-cluster and 20% hand-destemmed, to start spontaneous fermentation in small, half ton fermenters. The fruit was carefully hand-plunged and spent between 6-80 days on skins depending upon the lot. The ferments were basket pressed to neutral French barriques with sporadic battonage implemented for the first 2 months, getting a bit of lees contact adding a slight touch of a reductive note to the notoriously oxidative Grenache. After six months of aging the wine was racked to tank and bottled without fining or filtration and only minimal SO₂ added.

THE STATS

Vintage	2018
Grapes	100% Grenache
Viticulture	Certified Organic
Vineyard	The Fugazi Vineyard - Onkaparinga/Blewitt Springs Ridge
Soil Type	Ironstone & gravel infused red clay
Vine Age	71-years-old
Fermentation	Native - open top in half ton stainless steel fermenters - 80% whole-cluster
Aging	6 months in 5-10-year-old French barriques
Alcohol	12.8%
pH	3.63
Total Acidity	5.0 g/L
Total SO₂	40 ppm
Production	490 cases

THE PRESS

Decanter (Sarah Ahmed) | 97 points - The Wine Front (Gary Walsh) | 95 points - James Suckling (Nick Stock) | 94 points
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