



Ricca Terra

2021

'SKIN CONTACT'

Field Blend | Riverland - Australia



NATURAL



VEGAN

Stats

Grapes: 48% Zibibbo - 29% Grenache Blanc - 23% Vermentino

Vineyard: Ricca Terra Estate - Rudi & Barmera Blocks

Vine Age: 15-20-years-old

Soil Type: Shallow, sandy, red loam over calcrete

Viticulture: Practicing organic

Fermentation: Native - stainless-steel (100% destemmed - co-fermented)

Skin Contact: 30 days

Aging: 2 months in stainless-steel

Alcohol: 11.8%

pH: 3.92

Total Acidity: 4.3 g/L

Total SO2: 57 ppm

Total Production: 225 cases

About

Ashley Ratcliff has become synonymous with alternative varieties in Australia and his passionate work in the vineyard is realized when you see the dearth of natural winemakers flocking to his vineyard over the years. Ash decided it was time to explore more of this style of wine himself in 2021 and released a small amount of more avant-garde wines than he has traditionally produced. This invigorating skinsy field blend is composed of hyper-aromatic Zibibbo with acid-driving Grenache Blanc and a bit of textural Vermentino.

The fruit was hand-harvested at the same time and fully-destemmed before being placed into small stainless-steel fermenters. A bit of hand plunging was the only avenue for extraction and keeping the cap wet, fermentation occurred without any additions and after a month on the skins the wine was dry and then pressed back to tank to settle naturally. After another 30 days in tank the wine was bottled without fining or filtration and just a small addition of sulfur.

Tasting Note

Lightly cloudy straw color. The nose is a citrus explosion of lemon and orange with a musky overtone that draws back the fruit salad-like aroma a touch. The palate is very concentrated and leans into the savory spectrum. The skin contact is noticeable in the grip of the wine, but the light tannins are welcomed. The finish is long, penetrating and refreshing with the grippiness returning.