

Shaky train series - 2019 Mars Express Shiraz

- Grape Variety: 100% Shiraz – (55% Altona, 45% Ebenezer)
- Vintage: 2019
- Region: Barossa Valley
- Vineyards: Pilgrim Vineyards (Altona), Scholz Estate (Ebenezer)
- Alcohol level: 14.5%
- Whole bunch: 28%
- Oak maturation: 8 Months in French Oak, 10% New
- Owners : Stefan & Eleanor Dewey
- Winemaker: Stefan Dewey
- Production: 180 dozen
- Closure: Screw Cap

About this wine:

This wine is all about modern Barossa Valley wine making, allowing the purity of the fruit to be the star. We use a range of techniques to ensure that the beautiful fruit characters experienced in the vineyard are highlighted and amplified in the finished product. Keeping a portion of the berries whole instead of crushing them (whole bunch) helps to achieve this – it means that very few of these whole bunch berries are split, which in turn, promotes carbonic maceration (a process where each individual berry goes through its own mini fermentation, thus magnifying the fruit characteristics within the wine). This makes up 28% of the final blend.

We use 100% French Oak for maturation (8 months) with 10% new oak used for this particular blend. The cooper is D'Aquitaine and we use their Forest Select – Allier Forest specifically. We find that this forest contributes a lovely toasty oak and creamy character to Shiraz but importantly it supports the fruit characteristics within the wine rather than overpowering them.

All of our grapes from the Altona vineyard are hand-picked. Altona is a sub-region of the Barossa located between Lyndoch and Tanunda. The Altona vineyard is planted on a soil profile of sand over clay which produces a lighter or more elegant style of shiraz. The wine exhibits bright red fruit with wonderful floral overtones. This makes it the perfect blending component for the Mars Express as it's a more elegant and fruit forward Barossan Shiraz.

The second parcel hails from the Ebenezer sub region, which is famous for its big, austere style of Shiraz. This is an A-grade block with a sandy top soil followed by red clay and limestone. Owner, Anthony Scholz won Vigneron of the year in 2015. It oozes power, is fleshy and rich. It provides the bones or structure and weight within the wine. This particular vineyard (Scholz Estate) is surrounded by towering gum trees. We believe this is what leads to the hints of mint/eucalypt that can be perceived in the wine.

2019 as a vintage was one of extreme weather conditions, with frosts threatening vines throughout spring before the heat set in for an intense summer. This meant the vines were

under duress which lead to smaller berries with wonderful concentration. The smaller the berry, the more concentrated the fruit flavour and the more tannin the wines naturally exhibit... and 2019 was a year where wines could be made into those typical Barossan monsters. For mine, the skill of vintage 2019 was to showcase the beautiful fruit concentration whilst controlling those heavy tannins. We celebrate their power but worked very hard to ensure we remained fruit focused and medium-to-full bodied – true to our style.

The label for the Mars Express Shiraz is the perfect reflection of the wine inside... bright and colourful whilst being noticeable and playful – both wine and label have serious X factor. Keeping it in the family, the designer is none other than Ellie's uncle Michael Coulthard, a passionate cartoon artist from Exeter (Devon, UK). We really wanted to create something that was unique, energetic and a genuine conversation starter. We have played with idea of men are from Mars (our Mars Express Shiraz) and women are from Venus (our Venus Express GSM) – a nod to the feminine, voluptuous and medium bodied GSM vs the masculine, robust and medium to full-bodied Shiraz.

Tasting Notes:

The Mars Express is a masculine Barossan red. A full-bodied offering, that will be enjoyed by all, but will be a staple for the traditional Barossan Shiraz drinker.

Bursting with florals and parma violets. This wine is an Aladdin's Cave - the deeper you look, the more you discover. Think concentrated red fruit, dark fruit, tropical passionfruit nuances blueberry cheesecake.... Did I mention perfectly balanced tannins and spice? Temed with an enticing colour, vibrant hue and layers for days. Time to get on board!

Toot! Toot!

Awards:

This wine is a new release and has not been entered into any competitions as yet.