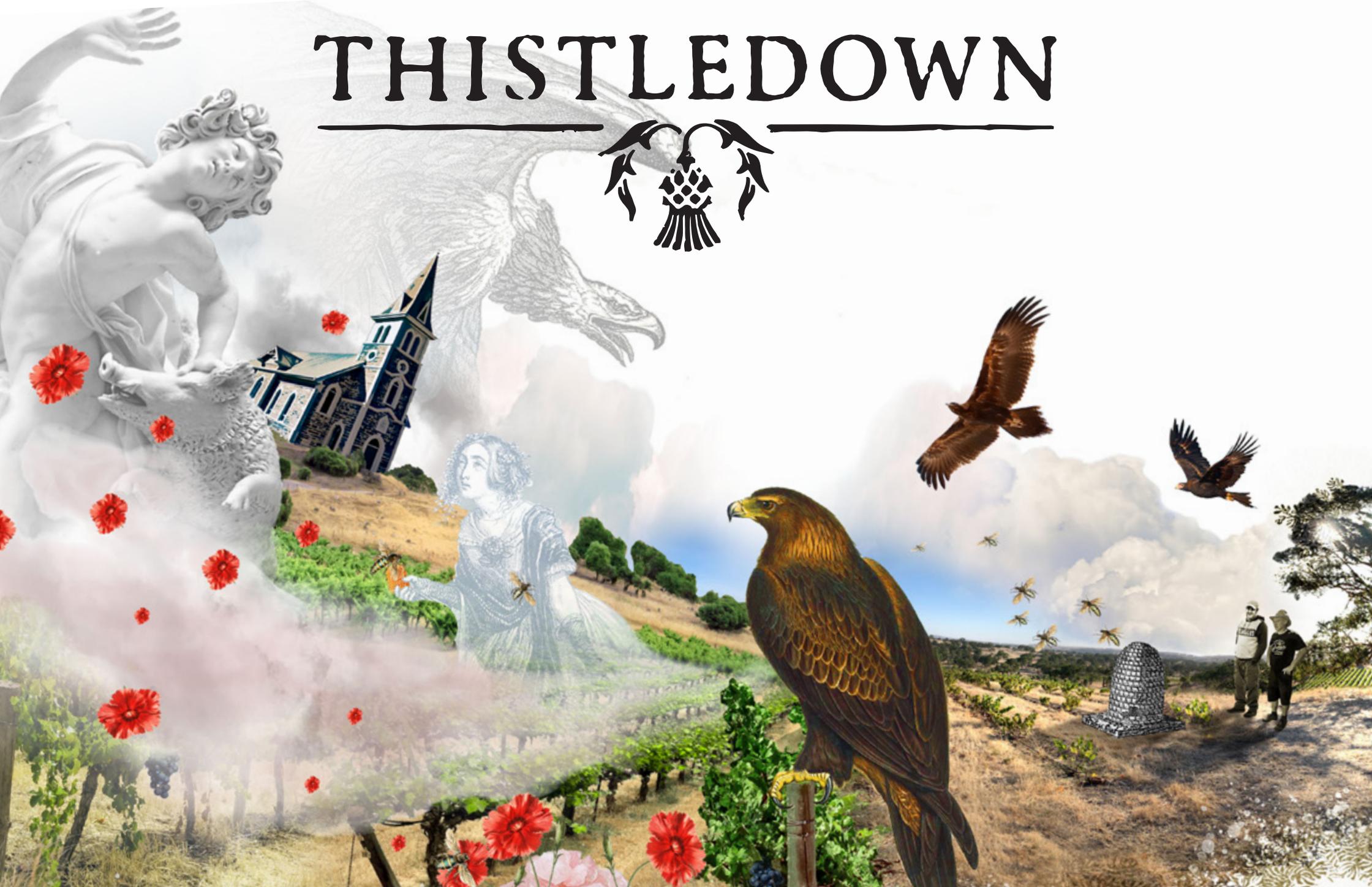


THISTLEDOWN





550
10/1/17

550
27/10/17

50
4/9/17

R3502
TG
M+
17GRTD

Taransaud
FRANCE

R4232

Ref. 518 MT

27/10/17



*Hand-crafted, small-batch wines,
narrating the stories of South Australia's iconic vineyard sites.*

Australian winemaking history owes much to the contribution of early Scots settlers.

As guardians of this legacy, we're proud to continue the tradition of
Scottish ingenuity and great Australian wine.

Giles Cooke
Giles Cooke MW

Fergal
Fergal Tynan MW



ESTD. 2006

www.thistledownwines.com



Small Batch Grenache, Chardonnay & Shiraz

From our home in the idyllic Adelaide Hills, we work with pristine fruit sourced from iconic vineyard sites in the McLaren Vale, Barossa Valley and Adelaide Hills. Masters of Wine, Giles Cooke & Fergal Tynan, hand-make small-batch wines that perfectly illustrate the benefits of great sites and intelligent, minimalist winemaking. This unique blend of superb fruit sources and experience in both the New and Old worlds ensures that we craft wines of subtle energy, texture and detail – wines perfectly suited to complement rather than overwhelm fine food.

“Cooke and Tynan established Thistledown in 2010 and by the end of the decade had built a strong following, culminating with a shower of trophies and gold medals at last year’s McLaren Vale Wine Show for their stunning Grenache... It’s an impressive portfolio, but the standout wines for me are the single-vineyard reds.”

Max Allen, Australian Financial Review, September 2020



ESTD. 2006

www.thistledownwines.com



About us

Our aim at Thistledown is to make wine of great purity, precision and energy. We're not here to impress with size, weight, alcohol or oak. As our name suggests, our wines may appear robust on the surface but we seek deep flavours and complexity that can be peeled back, layer by layer.

Our fruit comes from many of the best sites in the iconic regions of South Australia. We look for fruit grown in charismatic sites, on the best soils and at relatively low yields. We pick the fruit on the way up rather than the way down and combining this with the amazing old vine resources of South Australia allows us to couple concentration of flavour with balance and elegance.

In the winery, it's very much a low intervention, small-batch approach as befits high quality fruit picked at the right time. Natural ferments, whole bunch inclusion, gentle or passive extraction followed by judicious use of oak and the occasional concrete egg.



ESTD. 2006

www.thistledownwines.com

People



Giles Cooke MW

FOUNDER & WINEMAKER

Giles has travelled the world buying wine and creating engaging new products. But something has always drawn him back to Australia, where much of his early travel in the wine trade was done. Having met Fergal over a beer on the evening before the Master of Wine 1st year course, there was a certain inevitability that they would, one day, make wine together.

As well as passing the MW exam at the first attempt, Giles has winemaking experience in Spain, California and Australia - along with extensive consulting to wineries on wine styles and packaging.

Never one to sit still, Giles looks after all grower relationships, winemaking, some sales and marketing. An early riser, during vintage he spends more time in the vineyards than the growers do!



Fergal Tynan MW

FOUNDER

Having kissed the blarney stone at an early age, Fergal's trajectory through wine has been hard and fast with extensive travel throughout Europe, South America, South Africa and Australia.

Like Giles, regular, long exposures to Australian wine have led to an enduring love for the wines, people and regions that, in the end, lured him into the actual making of it.

Fergal became an MW in 2004. Though Fergal and Giles enjoy disagreeing on most things, they do tend to agree on Australian wine styles and Fergal's sense of purity and precision help define the Thistledown style.



Patrick Gilhooly

DIRECTOR OF SALES

A year backpacking in Australia, working for a Burgundy importer in Melbourne, then doing vintage in the beautiful Yarra Valley, inspired a passion in Paddy for a full time career in wine.

After working vintage Paddy embarked on a role in UK trade sales while studying for his WSET diploma. After holding various commercial wine sales roles Paddy relocated to Australia in 2014 to work with Thistledown.

Since 2014 Paddy has opened various markets both Domestic and International and is a Director of the business, involved in strategy and maintaining close relationships with production.



ESTD. 2006

www.thistledownwines.com

THISTLEDOWN WINE COMPANY



McLAREN VALE | EXCEPTIONAL SITES

In one of the most geologically diverse regions in the world, Grenache thrives but has not always been valued – until now. Thistledown is committed to showcasing the diversity and beauty of the region through wines which faithfully translate vineyard site to bottle.



Wait Family	
Variety	Grenache
District	Blewitt Springs
Destination Wine	The Vagabond, Thorny Devil, Gorgeous
Planted	1950's
Elevation (m)	211
Soil	Sandy Loams, Ironstone, Quartz
Training	Bush

Trott Home Block	
Variety	Grenache
District	Blewitt Springs
Destination Wine	Sands of Time, The Vagabond, Gorgeous
Planted	1952
Elevation (m)	205
Soil	Maslin Sand, Ironstone
Training	Bush

Smart	
Variety	Grenache
District	Clarendon
Destination Wine	This Charming Man, Gorgeous
Planted	1971
Elevation (m)	220
Soil	Clay Loams, Quartz, Siltstone
Training	Bush

San Remo	
Variety	Grenache
District	Seaview
Destination Wine	She's Electric
Planted	1950's
Elevation (m)	190
Soil	Brown Sandy Loams, Ironstone, Quartz
Training	Bush

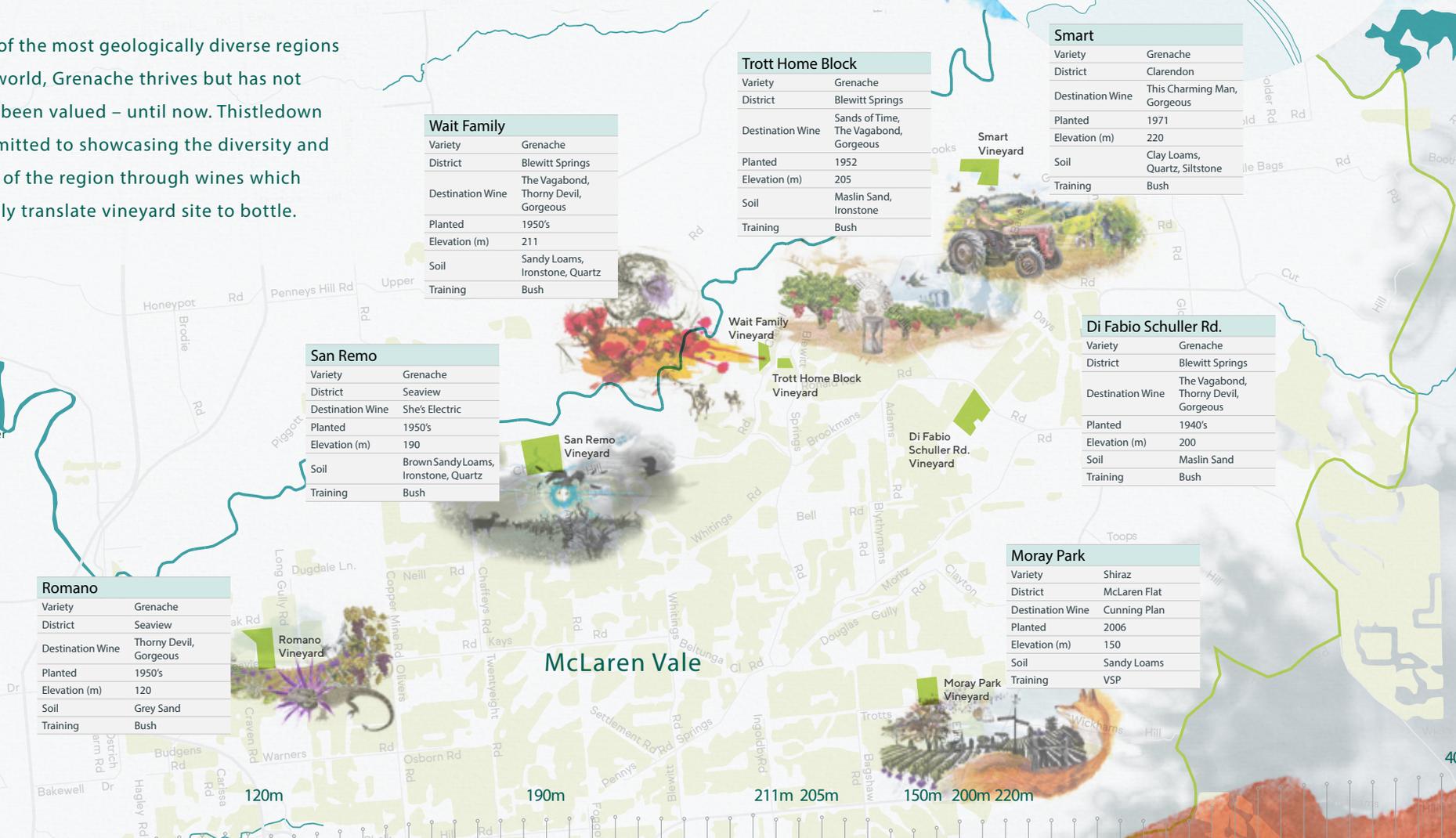
Di Fabio Schuller Rd.	
Variety	Grenache
District	Blewitt Springs
Destination Wine	The Vagabond, Thorny Devil, Gorgeous
Planted	1940's
Elevation (m)	200
Soil	Maslin Sand
Training	Bush

Romano	
Variety	Grenache
District	Seaview
Destination Wine	Thorny Devil, Gorgeous
Planted	1950's
Elevation (m)	120
Soil	Grey Sand
Training	Bush

Moray Park	
Variety	Shiraz
District	McLaren Flat
Destination Wine	Cunning Plan
Planted	2006
Elevation (m)	150
Soil	Sandy Loams
Training	VSP



McLaren Vale



Barossa Valley



History

The Barossa was established after George Fife Angas assisted the creation of an entire European settlement made up of predominantly Prussian provinces, including German speaking people from Silesia. They set about clearing the land for farming, built houses and churches while establishing "vine gardens". To this day, the German speaking heritage of the region is clear to see in the road names, winemaker's surnames and the delicious fatty foods sold in the numerous bakeries that dot the region.

Sites

There are basically two main soil types in the Barossa and both are thought to be relatively low in fertility: brown, loamy sandy to clay loam and sandy light-brownish grey to dark grey brown soils.

Old Vines are important to the region too with Barossa being one of the few regions left to have a significant vineyard with over 100 years of age. These old vines capture the essence of the region, bringing with them the ghosts of the past and the tastes of the future and as such are Thistledown's most prized sources.

Wines

It is not hard to produce wine that is high in colour, high in alcohol and high in tannin in the Barossa.

We however aim to capture the true flavour of Barossa in a more moderate framework - still robust, fully flavoured but brighter, more balanced and full of life.



ESTD. 2006

www.thistledownwines.com

McLaren Vale



History

It's a real melting pot of a region with many nationalities having been involved in its settlement ever since Colonel Light founded the region in 1837.

The region is situated 30km south of Adelaide and lies within two triangular basins which have had layers of sediment deposited there over the last 45 million years by the rise and fall of the sea.

Latterly, residential development has encroached on the region but nothing can take away from the beautiful, rolling countryside, the views to the sea, the bustling villages and the well tended vineyards and the stunning old vine resources

Sites

More than any other region in Australia, the winemakers of McLaren Vale have banded together to profile what makes the region so unique. Decades of research have led to the publication of a geology map that charts all of the significant soil types of the region.

The results, for the soil geeks amongst us, are stimulating. The soils of the McLaren Vale are some of the oldest of any winemaking region with most dating back 10s of millions of years, if not hundreds. Considering that wine has only been made here for less than 200 years, we reckon there is still a whole lot to learn.

Wines

McLaren Vale's proximity to the sea always seems to give the wines a breezy, well defined fruit profile with lots of lifted aromatics and bright fruit.

The cooling sea breezes which dominate the ripening season, combined with higher altitude sites, allows for the later ripening of varieties such as Grenache and it is there, amongst the low, ancient sandy hills of Blewitt Springs and Clarendon, that we find some of the most exciting Grenache fruit in all of Australia.

For us, McLaren Vale is less about power and more about fruit purity, balance and perfume.

We think it is world class for Grenache and, along with a few other hardy souls, we continue to champion this variety in this region.



ESTD. 2006

www.thistledownwines.com

Adelaide Hills



History

Mount Lofty, the highest point in the Adelaide Hills, was named by Matthew Flinders in 1802 when he circumnavigated the coastline of Australia. The Adelaide Hills region was later settled by predominantly British people who established the familiar sounding villages of Stirling, Crafers and Bridgewater. The British were joined by German and Silesian settlers in the 1840's who established the European styled villages of Hahndorf and Lobethal.

Vineyards were first established in 1840 and they thrived until 1900 when the Imperial Preference meant that their wines were no longer favoured by the British. After decades of fruit and dairy production, the region was re-discovered in the 1970s for cool climate viticulture. Today, the Adelaide Hills region is at the centre of the new Australian wine revolution. A melting pot of ideas, it is home to some of the most iconoclastic, exciting and innovative winemakers in Australia.

Sites

The Adelaide Hills region is one of the largest and most topographically diverse in South Australia. The region is situated in the Mount Lofty Ranges, east of the city of Adelaide. Stretching in a narrow arc approximately 70km long which borders the Barossa to the north and McLaren Vale to the south. With vineyards at heights of over 650m in areas such as Picadilly, Summertown and Carey Gully, the Adelaide Hills has some of the most challenging viticulture in all of South Australia. In such a large region, it is difficult to generalise at any level. This most beautiful of regions has a myriad of microclimates, soil types and aspects which make it both the most beautiful to visit and one of the most exciting in which to make wine.

Wines

The region is known for its cool climate styles and, since the resurgence of winemaking in the region since the 1970's, has become synonymous with the production of Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. More recently, cool climate Syrah, aromatic varietals such as Grüner Veltliner, Gewürtztraminer and Pinot Gris have come to the fore but for us, it's hard to beat a classic and we're delighted to champion Chardonnay as the star performer in this region.



ESTD. 2006

www.thistledownwines.com

The Distant Light

GRENACHE, SHIRAZ

MCLAREN VALE AND BAROSSA

The Distant Light is what keeps many of us moving forward. It is the faint, twinkling lights of a harbour, gently beckoning home weary fishermen after time at sea. It is the comforting glow of a wood fire burning post a long, winter's walk. It is the dazzling, azure blue of the ocean, glimpsed through gullies after a long drive to the coast. It is the streak of light on the horizon, viewed from a hilltop vineyard, ushering in a new dawn.

This wine blends Shiraz from Ebenezer and Eden Valley with Grenache from Blewitt Springs and Clarendon, all in the pursuit of balance. A combination of hand-picking, wild ferments with whole bunch inclusion, gentle extraction and ageing in French oak has given this wine a supple, mellifluous texture that displays the quality and quantity of the detail but in a form that is seamless.



DESTINATION WINE



Suilven

CHARDONNAY

ADELAIDE HILLS

2015 saw the release of Thistledown's destination Chardonnay. Grown in the cooler Adelaide Hills region of South Australia, the focus is on site selection and then individual barrel selection to craft our ultimate expression of the king of white grapes.

Hand picking, whole bunch pressing and natural fermentations in barrel enhance the pristine quality of the fruit while the selection in barrel allows us to pick out only those barrels that show the energy, nerve and complexity of which great Chardonnay is capable.

Ultimately, this is a very individual expression of Chardonnay - one that perfectly demonstrates Thistledown's commitment to complex, finely balanced wines that enhance great food and memorable occasions.

PRESS REVIEWS

2019 - 93 pts

Gary Walsh, The Wine Front

Spicy Japanese ginger oak, almond, a minor amount of struck match, white peach and lemon zest. It's fine and slightly milky in texture, has a soft grip and texture, again the ginger over peach and pink grapefruit. It finishes pretty long, with an almost chalky texture. High quality, obviously still quite young, and feels in evolution; like it's going somewhere better, for sure.

2019 - 93pts

Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com

Attractive lemon-pastry aromas with grapefruit and a gently flinty edge, too. The palate has a fresh, juicy feel with bright lemons, as well as a layered texture and white peaches to close. All here.



DESTINATION WINE



Where Eagles Dare

MATTSCHOSS VINEYARD SHIRAZ

EDEN VALLEY | BAROSSA

Only the bravest and the most visionary choose to fly where eagles dare...

Perched high up above the Barossa, the Eden Valley can be a precarious but hugely rewarding place in which to grow grapes. This single vineyard, at 550m above sea level is hauntingly beautiful. Home to the majestic wedgetail eagle, the soils composed of pink quartz and ironstone provide a formidable substrate in which the vines take a tenuous hold.

Tiny yields, hand-picked, wild fermented in a single concrete egg before maturation in tight grain French oak for 12 months. Bottled unfined and unfiltered for maximum expression

Inaugural vintage takes flight Jan 2021



SINGLE SITE WINE



Bachelor's Block

EBENEZER SHIRAZ

BAROSSA VALLEY

Bachelor's Block was our first single-site release and it is a wine that set the benchmark for contemporary fine wine from the Barossa. Produced from hand-picked fruit in a defined part of one single block in the revered Ebenezer sub-region. Bachelor's Block effortlessly blends precise picking times, whole bunch natural fermentations, gentle vinification with extended time in fine French hogsheads to yield a wine of taut power, finesse and savoury freshness.

PRESS REVIEWS

2018 - 95 pts

The Wine Advocate

Grown by Andy Kalleske, the 2018 Bachelor's Block Ebenezer Shiraz is textbook Barossa Valley Shiraz, with bold notes of purple raspberries and mint but also ample weight and concentration on the full-bodied palate, creamy, supple tannins and a rich, velvety and mouthwatering finish. Made with one-third whole clusters and matured in one-third new oak, neither shows much on the surface, but both impart extra dimension to this multifaceted wine. It should drink well for at least a decade.

2018 - 95 pts

Halliday Wine Companion

I like this. A lot! Again, a sturdy clutch of whole-bunch (40%) mettle and a twine of peppery acidity serves to galvanise teeming blue and black fruit flavours with a sense of restraint. No shortage of richness, soaring violet aromas and the heft desired by many. Barossa, after all. But the overall sense is of a wine from somewhere cooler; a hand with a deft touch. Vinous density juxtaposed against an uncanny lightness and thrumming intensity. Kudos!



SINGLE SITE WINE



This Charming Man

OLD VINE GRENACHE

CLARENDON | MCLAREN VALE

On a beautiful hillside in the Clarendon sub-region of McLaren Vale, three generations of the Smart family have devoted their lives to Grenache. Decades have passed where precious few valued their crop and yet they endured. That this remarkable vineyard has sustained is down to one man, Bernard Smart and this wine pays homage to this charming man.

A remarkable site that has vines of 100 years old. The entire site, planted high in the picturesque Clarendon sub-region, is dry grown bush vines. This wine is sourced from one particular block where the canopy is raised slightly higher above the ground, allowing for better air circulation and increased radiated sunlight. The wine is hand-picked with 20% retained as whole bunches. Wild fermented and gently hand plunged twice a day during active fermentation. Pressed off to 300 litre hogsheads, of which 25% were new French.



PRESS REVIEWS

2019 - 97 pts

Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com

This is sourced from the Smart Vineyard, up on the ridge at Clarendon and has a very singular, powerful expression of raspberry and red-plum aromas, as well as some bracken and forest-wood notes. Very pure. The palate has a succulent feel with acidity that enlivens the rich, powerful, red-berry flavors.

2019 - 95 pts

Gary Walsh, The Wine Front

From the Smart vineyard up in Clarendon. How many Grenache based wines can these lunatics at Thistledown make in any given year? Anyway, Johnny Marr produced one of the best, and most enduring guitar parts ever written for the song of the same name, made all the better because it was played on a Fender Telecaster. How's the purity? Crisp and clear red fruit, mint and liquorice root perfume, a dusting of exotic spice. It's light and fresh, rings like a well struck triangle, fine emery board tannin, cool and calm, vanilla and juicy raspberry on a long and precise finish. Fine wine, no doubt.

2019 - 94 pts

Halliday Wine Companion 2021

Wild-fermented with 20% whole bunches, matured in French puncheons (20% new). Full-bodied, and demanding time, but there's a power of varietal fruit to reward those with patience. The tannins are the key to a wine of character - and an undoubted future.

SINGLE SITE WINE



Sands of Time

OLD VINE GRENACHE

BLEWITT SPRINGS | MCLAREN VALE

Early on in our Grenache journey, we were introduced to Sue Trott's Home Block in the Blewitt Springs sub-region of McLaren Vale. Its beautiful aspect, raised elevation and free-draining deep sandy soils are the perfect spot for dry-grown bush-vine Grenache and we were so lucky to be offered the opportunity to purchase a little fruit. 5 years on and we have learned a little about the site and refined our picking decisions and vinification to the extent that from 2017 we were content that we could do the site justice by bottling separately.

Hand-picked, on the way up, we vinify naturally in concrete and place whole bunches alternately with de-stemmed fruit to create a layer cake. A very gentle, slow fermentation is followed by maturation in oak and concrete before a careful selection is done, which is then bottled unfinned and unfiltered 10 months later.

A faithful expression of the site – beautiful, haunting aromatics, fine sandy tannins and wonderful, memorable length on the palate.



PRESS REVIEWS

2019 - 95 pts

Gary Walsh, The Wine Front

From 76 year old vines planted in Blewitt Springs, which is perhaps the epicentre for quality Grenache in this country. Bit of a loaded word of late though, is epicentre. A total of 930 bottles produced. Mine is 923. I was hoping for either 930, 007 or 001. Oh well.

Medium-bodied, perfume and ripe raspberry, some biscuit spices and wholesome earthiness, almost like wet clay. It's carrying some puppy fat as a very young wine, succulence of raspberry, but there's bass and depth, kitten's tongue tannin, a smattering of dried herb (thyme and the like) and dried flowers on a long and gently, but insistently, tannic finish. Fantastic, and it feels like it will develop beautifully.

2019 - 95 pts

Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com

This is a wine that resonates in the way that old-vine wines sometimes do. Transcending the weight of fruit and the various aromas and flavors, it delivers x-factor presence. The bright red berries are tinged with wild herbs. Stone and forest-wood notes, too. The wine has a succulent, bright entry and then expands in all directions to really claim the palate in full, showing fine yet sinewy tannins, all juicy, defined and persistent. Fresh red-berry flavor holds long. Just needs a year or two to bed it all in. Drink or hold.

2019 - 95 pts

Huon Hooke, The Real Review

Deepish red/purple colour, with a dusty earth, peppery, dry-bark aroma. The wine is firm and tightly structured with a decent grip, the finish and aftertaste very drying. A fairly full-bodied wine with a stiff spine, and a long-lasting finish. Food suggested. Big potential here. (930 bottles made. Grown by Sue Trott. Wild fermented in concrete eggs using 30% whole-bunches).

SINGLE SITE WINE



She's Electric

OLD VINE, SINGLE VINEYARD GRENACHE

MCLAREN VALE

Some vineyards have a remarkable story to tell and we came upon such a vineyard in late 2016. At the Seaview end of Chapel Hill Rd, it's old bush vines contrasted by a planting of much younger Grenache. Apparently, half of the vineyard was burned when a bird caught light on a power line, fell to the ground and set light to the vineyard! We were so glad that some of the amazing old vines are still there for us to use.

PRESS REVIEWS

2019 - 96 pts

Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com

A super fragrant and floral rendition of this old-vine parcel from the Seaview district of the vale. It has aromas of poached strawberries and raspberries with a very seductive, whole-bunch (50%) influence. The palate has such impressive detail with a very pure and sleekly layered shape, mapped out with super fine, layered tannins. The red-berry, pomegranate and blood-orange flavors are deliciously fresh. Drink or hold. Screw cap.

2019 - 96 pts & Great Value

Halliday Wine Companion 2021

Dry-grown on stingy soils in Seaview, manifest as abstemious yields. hand-picked with 50% whole bunch, ditto whole berries as the rest; all whacked into a gently extractive wild ferment, foot trodden. The tannic glean a reflection of everything prior and an ample post-ferment maceration. This smells like Turkish delight, tomato, wild raspberry, bergamot, sour cherry and something rocky. The tannins, sand-etched and beautifully detailed. A pliant density. This set of wines is so on the pulse! I am astounded, smitten and swooning, all at once.

2019 - 95 pts

Gary Walsh, The Wine Front

50% whole bunch. 675 bottles produced. She's Electric. Are Friends Electric? Electric Avenue. Together in Electric Dreams. Do I need The Mercy Seat? Perhaps. Light and frisky Grenache, layered with spice over cranberry and fresh raspberry, rose and mint perfume. It's energetic, light and 'Pinot-like', a little rasp of tannin, energy and tension, and a cool long finish that's just so appealing, you want to dip back in straight away. Bloody beautiful. Love this style of Grenache.



SINGLE SITE WINE



The Vagabond

OLD VINE GRENACHE

BLEWITT SPRINGS, MCLAREN VALE

When Thistledown first began, we could have been accused of being deluded in our belief that the world was about to wake up to the incredible quality of McLaren Vale Grenache. However, the tide has most definitely turned and Grenache is hot property.

Within the McLaren Vale, Blewitt Springs is the place to be. With its deep sands, elevated sites and old vines, this district produces the regions most consistently world class wines.

The Vagabond, with a swag of medals, plaudits and trophies under its belt, faithfully conveys the beauty of the region and has become a benchmark for contemporary Australian Grenache.



PRESS REVIEWS

2019 - 96 pts

Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com

This showcases the power of Blewitt Springs in a very boldly stated, fruit-driven expression of grenache with real purpose. The aromas are of redcurrants, raspberries, pomegranate and blood oranges and lead to a palate with a phenomenal drive of acidity and tannin. Such intense and defined style here. Drink or hold. Screw cap.

2019 - 95 pts & Great Value

Halliday Wine Companion 2021

I adore this estate's obsession with grenache, quite possibly SA's saviour alongside a swag of Italian indigenes and mataro, especially in lieu of the warming planet, the variety's torrid Mediterranean mettle and the lack of natural structure in shiraz. A delicious full-bodied wine that seems, despite it all, barely mid-weighted. This is due to the maritime salinity, pointed acidity and fishbone tannins, etching the flow of fruit with a detailed edge that confers savouriness and a sense of freshness while corralling persimmon, pomegranate, fecund strawberry and cranberry scents. This is looser knit than the other top cuvees, but no less delicious.

2019 - 95 pts

Gary Walsh, The Wine Front

Blewitt Springs. Creamy raspberry, rosy perfume and spice, maybe a bit of shoe leather and dried herb. It's silky, fresh, fine grip of tannin, mint and red fruits, but savoury in the background, with a coolness and vitality that makes it so charming, and good to drink. Some red fruit and sap to close. Yes.

SUB REGIONAL WINE



Silken Beastie

SHIRAZ

NOR' WESTER | BAROSSA VALLEY

Free your mind from stereotypes of the past, be willing to give things another go and imagine the beauty and subtlety that can be borne of an otherwise hostile environment. Not afraid to do the same ourselves, it's taken a second incarnation before we were convinced that we had captured the real beauty of the Barossa.

PRESS REVIEWS

2018 - 93 pts

Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate

Made with 40% whole clusters from three sites in the northwestern Barossa Valley and aged over a year in 30% new oak, the 2018 Silken Beastie Shiraz lives up to its name, delivering raspberries, vanilla and mint on a full-bodied, creamy palate framed by silky tannins. It's mouthwatering and long on the finish, only slowly fading away.

2018 - 91 pts

Halliday Wine Companion 2021

A meld of fruit from Ebenezer, Kalimna and Koonunga has been handled minimally: fermented indigenously with the inclusion of a small percentage of whole-bunch. The result is rich and seamless. Bitter chocolate. Lilac. Anise, Liquorice. Damson plum and searingly ripe black cherry, with a solid riff of oak. A polished full-bodied wine that will please many.



SUB REGIONAL WINE



Thorny Devil

GRENACHE MCLAREN VALE

From 2019, Thorny Devil is sourced from a number of old vine Grenache blocks in our beloved McLaren Vale. Utilising wild ferments, minimal handling and larger format oak, it is a brilliant introduction to the contemporary expression of Grenache.



Cunning Plan

SHIRAZ MCLAREN VALE

The beautiful region of McLaren Vale is bounded by the Gulf to the West and various ranges to the East and North. Geologically, one of the most diverse regions on earth, it has long been the home to some of Australia's finest expressions of Shiraz. Our fruit comes from the Moray Park vineyard in the McLaren Flat sub-region. Low yielding and ultra intense, we handle the fruit gently to capture the delicious berry fruit character overlaid with subtle wood-spice.



PRESS REVIEWS



2019 - 93 pts

Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com

A very fragrant, aromatic style with attractive, fresh red flowers and sappy, bunchy raspberries and boysenberries. The palate has a very complete, supple and smooth-honed feel with a seamless build of finely layered tannins. Drink now. Screw cap.



2019 - 93 pts

Halliday Wine Companion 2021

Fermented with 30% whole bunches, matured in French oak, the best barrels selected for this wine. A fragrant bouquet and fresh red fruit palate. Counterintuitively, significant tannins add a dimension to the juicy fruit.

PRESS REVIEWS



2019 - 96 pts

James Halliday Top 100

A full-bodied shiraz that reflects cunning winemaking. Whole berry fermentation has put a rich gloss on the palate without overloading the tannin structure. The predominantly black berry fruit is shot through with licorice, spice and an airbrush of dark chocolate.

2020
JAMES HALLIDAY
TOP 100

2019 - 93 pts

Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com

A smoothly delivered shiraz that has deep, fleshy and seductive appeal. The fresh blackberry, plum and mulberry aromas are nicely dosed with oak spice and deliver such soft, smooth style on the palate. Really effortless drinkability. Drink now. Screw cap.

REGIONAL WINES



The Quickening

SHIRAZ EDEN VALLEY & BAROSSA VALLEY

As life-forces stir, a connection is born and a personality created. The Quickenning celebrates the vivifying power of nature. This is the Barossa re-imagined. An exuberant outpouring of energy, captured within a sculptured framework that reflects the rugged yet beautiful landscape

of its conception. Joel Mattschoss' Eden Valley vineyard provides the majority of the fruit. This spectacular vineyard is planted on some of the most difficult, meagre soils of any we have seen. Hand picking, a percentage of whole bunches and wild ferments all play their role in ensuring that this wine is full of energy and life.



World Label Association - 'Best of the Best Label Awards' - World Winner

Great Escape

CHARDONNAY ADELAIDE HILLS

Great Escape is our benchmark, cool climate Chardonnay produced from fruit grown in elevated vineyard sites which allow for a long ripening period which helps to maintain the natural sugar and acid balance of the grape. With moderate alcohol, focussed, crisp citrus fruit and a mouthwatering finish, this is an accomplished, truly modern style of this noble variety.



PRESS REVIEWS

2019 - 94 pts

Gary Walsh, The Wine Front

Beheading an 'immortal' produced a burst of energy called a 'Quickenning'. Not to be confused with 'The Pentaveret', who run everything in the world, including the newspapers.

Cool fragrance of dried flowers, sage and thyme, black fruit and spice. It's kind of juicy in the blackcurrant and blackberry department, with well-knit tannin giving a confident but gentle grip, fresh feel, and a long and subtly mentholated peppery finish. Very nice. You could well crave it fortnightly.

2019 - 93 pts

Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com

A smoothly delivered shiraz that has deep, fleshy and seductive appeal. The fresh blackberry, plum and mulberry aromas are nicely dosed with oak spice and deliver such soft, smooth style on the palate. Really effortless drinkability. Drink now. Screw cap.



PRESS REVIEWS

2018 - 90 pts

Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com

An open-knit impression from the outset with bright melon, as well as some citrus and peaches. The palate is smooth, fresh and fruit-focused. Drink now. Screw cap.



REGIONAL WINES



Gorgeous Grenache Blanc

As yet, there is very little Grenache Blanc planted in Australia but true to form we are championing the potential of the variety. Intense, pithy fruit, tangy, mouthwatering and delicious. The trio is completed!



PRESS REVIEWS

2020 - 92 pts

Stuart Knox, The Real Review

Medium straw-gold colour. Very exotic nose, honeysuckle, cinnamon and green apple notes. The palate is all zip and zing. White berries, lemon thyme and saline minerality all combine with a taut acid line and a dusty fuzz of phenolics. This variety should have a great future in Australia.

2020 - 91 pts

Gary Walsh, The Wine Front

It's instantly appealing on the nose showing raspberry, cranberry, citrus and floral aromas, followed by a juicy palate that's lively and lingering. The wine offers pristine fruit flavours together with rounded mouthfeel and vibrant acidity, finishing long and mouth-watering. At its best: now to 2021.

Gorgeous Grenache Rosé

Grenache is Australia's signature grape variety and we're slightly obsessed with it. Our first Rosé is sourced from an old, single vineyard in Berri. Beautifully pale, salmon pink with delicate aromatics and lovely texture, it lives up to its name.



2020 - 95 pts

Amanda Yallop www.therealreview.com

Flamingo-pink hue. Intense bouquet, rosewater, Aperol, red berries, sweet vanilla and clove. Dry, savoury and spicy flavour profile, ripe apples, cranberry, red skins and toast. Medium-bodied, with a slippery texture that indicates extended time spent on lees.

2019 - 92 pts

Nick Butler (huonhooke.com)

Bright, pale pink colour. Raspberry and musk, loads of personality, lifted aromatics that draw you back to the glass. It's pleasantly sweet - again, with musk and toffee apple teasing then tapering into a balanced, crisp finish. Lovely wine.

REGIONAL WINES



Gorgeous Grenache

Grenache is Australia's signature grape variety and we're slightly obsessed with it. Utilising a range of premium vineyards across South Australia, we've crafted a wine that captures all that is good about Grenache. Aromatic, deceptively light but with beautiful wild fruit, and slurpy, supple tannins.



PRESS REVIEWS

2019 - 92 pts

Gary Walsh, The Wine Front

It's labelled as South Australia, which is true enough, though more specifically comes from the Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale. And I think some old vines in the Riverland, though the website offers conflicting information. Anyway, here's the wine.

The name is indeed, not misleading. Poached strawberries with fresh mint, some brown spice and musk perfume. It's supple and juicy, soft powdery tannin, succulence and easy drinking appeal, not over done, and only really medium-bodied. It begins well, and ends well. It's an easy wine to like.





Hand-crafted, small-batch wines,
narrating the stories of South Australia's iconic vineyard sites.

www.thistledownwines.com

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