

THISTLEDOWN



This Charming Man

Single Vineyard Grenache 2023

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. The 2023 vintage marks the passing of Bernard Smart. He was there when we picked the fruit and we'll raise a glass to him as we open the first bottles of '23.

1511 Bottles & 55 Magnums Produced

Winemaking

The fruit was hand-picked on 4th April before being transported to the winery where 20% was retained as whole bunches to be placed on the base of a 2ton open fermenter. Wild fermented and gently hand plunged twice a day during active fermentation. Pressed off to 300 litre hogsheads, of which 20% were new.

Viticulture

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 and has been farmed by the same family for 3 generations. 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.

Tasting

This wine displays muscular yet elegant silky black fruits couple with deep, rich, warming spices, hints of violet, mineral and black cherry.



Wine Analysis

Varietal: 100% Grenache

Alcohol: 14.5%

Total Acidity: 5.58 g/l

pH: 3.43

Residual Sugar: 1g/l

SO2: 89 mg/l



Vintage Conditions

The third in a series of La Niña influenced vintages, 2023 was perhaps the most extreme. In an erratic season, the consistent theme was of cooler than average temperatures and wet weather periods during the ripening period. Yields varied massively from site to site and this meant for massive variations in ripening periods and more detailed vineyard work than ever before. The lack of intense heat resulted in one of the latest seasons on record and the wines made display elegance, brilliant aromatics and supreme balance.



www.thistledownwines.com



@thistledownwines