

Firebird

Cabernet Sauvignon — 2018 Estate Grown in the Adelaide Hills

VITICULTURE

A slightly warmer 2018 growing season was a good platform for the production of red wines with fragrance, intensity and medium bodied elegance in the Adelaide Hills. Warm days and relatively cool nights with little late summer rain meant that red grapes matured under perfect growing conditions with harvest extending well into Autumn. We didn't suffer from the late burst of wet and cool weather that was experienced in 2017 so good control of water through irrigation produced perfect vine canopies (the engine for good wine) in 2018.

WINEMAKING

The 2018 Cabernet is a single-vineyard-dual-block wine and was made solely from the Tunnel Hill vineyard located in the Northern Adelaide Hills (some say we look down on the Barossa from where we are). The fruit was machine picked in the early morning using the new selective machine harvesting technology that removes all unwanted items such as leaves, petioles and rachis in the vineyard producing a pristine whole berry pick. The harvested grapes were transported to the winery in ½ tonne picking bins, tipped directly into 4 tonne static open fermenters for whole berry ferment, cold soaked for 5 days allowing fermentation to begin naturally.

Time on skins prior to pressing was approximately 18 days with the pressing decision based upon flavour and colour extraction as well as tannin structure. The wine was matured in a balanced mix of new and seasoned French oak barrels for 22 months. Around 40% of the wine was matured in a mix of new and seasoned 500L puncheon French oak barrels as we continue our experiment with large format barrels.

In total 160 barrels of the 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon was made. After extensive barrel tastings and selection only 80 barrels were chosen to become the 2018 Firebird Cabernet Sauvignon.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Region — Adelaide Hills
Variety — Cabernet Sauvignon
Winemakers — Mark Kozned and Chris Parsons
Alcohol — 14.5%
pH — 3.5
TA — 6.2 g/L

Bouquet — Red current and red capsicum and a hint of fresh tobacco.

Palate — Dark fruits including mulberry, black current and mocha with ripe red capsicum sweetness and supple and silky tannins.

Cellaring — My recommendation is that this wine is best consumed within 20 years from bottling (February 2020)

ACCOLADES

Silver Medal - Royal Adelaide wine show 2020

