

Shaky Train Series – 2019 Venus Express Grenache Shiraz Mataro

- Grape Variety: 77% Grenache 21% Shiraz, 2% Mataro
- Vintage: 2019
- Region: Barossa Valley
- Vineyards: Pilgrim Vineyards (Altona), Scholz Estate (Ebenezer) Heinrich (Tweedies Gully)
- Alcohol level: 14.5%
- Whole bunch: 27%
- Oak maturation: 8 Months in French Oak, 3.5% New
- Owners : Stefan & Eleanor Dewey
- Winemaker: Stefan Dewey
- Production: 175 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 the berries whole instead of crushing them (whole bunch) helps to achieve this – it means that very few of the berries are split, which in turn, promotes carbonic maceration (a process in which each individual berry goes through its own mini fermentation thus magnifying the fruit characteristics within the wine). This makes up 27% of the final blend. We use 100% French Oak for maturation (8 months) with 3.5% new oak used for this particular blend. The cooper is D'Aquitaine and we use their Forest Select – Allier Forest specifically. Although this wine is not in any way focused on oak, I find that this forest contributes a lovely caramel character to our GSM and helps to round out the palate. This allows us to get the wine into bottle earlier and preserve those wonderful fruit aromas. As with the Shiraz it supports the fruit characteristics within the wine instead of over powering them.

The Grenache was sourced from the Heinrich family in Tweedies Gully. Tweedies Gully makes up part of the foothills within the Barossa Valley, due East from Rowland Flat. It's a beautiful 70-year-old vineyard. It's high elevation (approx. 250m above sea level) and vine age contribute to its ability to produce fruit of great concentration and intense flavours. Parts of this vineyard are also picked early and used for rose due to its overtly bright confected fruit characters – something we strive for!

The Shiraz is sourced from 2 blocks. Block 1 is from the Pilgrim vineyards in Altona. 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 Shiraz vineyard is planted on a soil profile of sand over clay which produces a lighter or more elegant style of shiraz that exhibits bright red fruit with wonderful floral overtones, making it the perfect component for this fruit dominant GSM blend.

Block 2 is 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, rich and contributes great structure to 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.

The Mataro was also sourced from the Heinrich family in Tweedies Gully. This is another of the Heinrich families 70 years-old vineyards. It produces small berries (for Mataro) that are thick skinned and exhibits great fruit purity. This Mataro vineyard showcases very varietal or typical Mataro characters of blueberry fruit, earth, beetroot and leather. It is the perfect component to provide a little complexity to our GSM blend.

The label for the Venus Express GSM is the perfect reflection of the wine inside... bright, energetic and colourful – 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 Note:

The Venus Express is best described as a feminine Barossan blend. A voluptuous medium body yet full flavoured and approachable wine to entice the 'I don't drink red wine' novice or enchant and delight the connoisseur alike.

Bright red fruit of cherry and raspberry. Layers of redsjin confection interlaced with wholebunch spice, wrap around a caramel core. This pepped up, silky tannin treat, will demand you come back for more! Time to get on board!

Toot! Toot!

Awards:

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