

## Ascharke Shiraz Shiraz Shiraz 2020

## TASTING NOTES

"Deep, inky magenta colour. A complex nose, indicative of ripe plums, cherries and blackberries. The foundation of fruit is layered with spicy undertones and dark chocolate. The palate is full-bodied and well-rounded with more blue fruit underpinned by black pepper and vanilla. The tannins are smooth and persistent, framing this very well balanced and drinkable wine."

Vintage	2020
Vineyard	Western Barossa Ridge (three sites)
Variety	100% Shiraz
Alcohol	14.5%
рН	3.25
Titratable Acidity	7.49

## WINEMAKING

The fruit was picked at night; then 95% of it was destemmed into concrete and open top fermenters, the remaining 5% whole bunch fermented for added complexity and texture. After a warm 10- day ferment, the wines were pressed, racked off gross lees and allowed to undergo malolactic fermentation [MLF] in tank. Following MLF the wines were racked, sulphured and élevaged for a further 12 months in French hogsheads (15% new) before the final blend was assembled and bottled.

## **VINTAGE REPORT**

The wines of 2020 vintage are proving to be of exceptional quality, despite the challenging growing season and very low yields.

Winter rainfall was below average but a warm start to spring gave rise to even budburst and minimal frost events. The growing season was hampered by unseasonably high winds that delivered the biggest blow to the season, at flowering. Dry conditions, extremely high temperatures coupled with the strong winds destroyed up to 70% of flowers in some vineyards; Shiraz the worst affected.

The ripening conditions were ideal, moderate temperatures and minimal rain provided very low risk to disease pressures. Supplementary irrigation was critical in nurturing the health of the vineyards and encouraging favourable fruit ripening.

The general quality of wines from 2020 has proven great to exceptional; rich in flavour, strong colour and ripe tannins. Many of the wines formed balance early during fermentation and those well-structured will age well. Standouts varieties include Grenache, Grenache Blanc, Shiraz and Montepulciano.

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