

FINE BAROSSA RED WINES

**Brand Introduction** 

# My Farmed,

# Hand Enafted







### Our Philosophy

As one of a small group of winemakers who helped retain the viticultural heritage of the Barossa, Charlie is recognised with respecting the tradition of the Barossa's old vineyard Grenache, Shiraz & Mataro.

Great emphasis is placed on the quality of fruit, with all grapes dry grown and harvested from the winery's own 80 acres of prime Barossa vineyard land, supplemented by a select group of family-owned vineyards.



# Brand Summary

Since the first vintage of Charles Melton Wines in 1984, this boutique Barossa Valley winery has gained both national & international recognition for its premium red table wines

- The wines move from the highly rated, 'The Rose of Virginia', through to Australia's premier Rhone-style red, Nine Popes.
- Charles Melton also makes small quantities of Shiraz, Grenache, Cabernet Sauvignon and Sparkling Red, and is the only Australian producer of a Vin Santo styled dessert wine, Sotto di Ferro.
- Charlie was one of the first to recognize the value and tradition of the Barossa's old vineyard Grenache, Shiraz & Mataro.
- At a time when others were pulling out vineyards of old Shiraz & Mataro to plant more fashionable varieties, Charlie was convincing Farmers to keep their historic Vineyards.





# Brand Dummary

- Great emphasis is placed on the quality of fruit, with all grapes dry grown and harvested from the winery's own 80 acres of prime Barossa vineyard land, supplemented by a select group of family-owned vineyards. Yields are extremely low with often only one tonne to the acre and the vineyards are truly old with some exceeding a century in age
- A range of techniques are employed during the winemaking process. These include whole bunch fermentation, open fermentation, pigeage and indigenous yeast fermentation. These techniques provide a range of blending options, allowing Charles Melton to achieve a balance between wines that portray pure fruit flavours and more earthy/gamey characters
- Showing complexity from a range of vineyard sites and vinification techniques, the wines have demonstrated over the last two decades an ability to cellar gracefully into mature examples of the finest Barossa styles.





**OLD VINE BAROSSA HISTORY** 

 Charles Melton Wines own approximately 80 acres of prime Barossa Valley vineyard scattered throughout a number of parishes, mainly in the southern end of the Valley and the high point of the Barossa Ranges.





#### SOUTHERN BAROSSA VINEYARDS

### Woodlands Vineyard - Htona

- A superb 25 acre, dry grown vineyard of almost 50 years age, growing Shiraz and Grenache principally, with a small Cabernet plot.
- Three different soil types comprise the earth here, dark loam, shallow red load over limestone and a small patch of gravel soil in which the Cabernet has its roots.

### Koch Vineyard - Rowland Flat

- Friedrich Wilhelm Koch left Rackau in 1838 with the 3rd group of Silesian immigrants who made their way to South Australia, making his first purchase of land in Rowland Flat, in the Barossa in 1844.
- Our block is amongst those holdings. The vines on our block were planted in 1927 by Bernhard Adolph Koch, the great grandson of Friedrich Wilhelm Koch.
- Split almost equally between bush vine Grenache and Shiraz, growing in friable gradational clay loam. Twenty acres planted.



#### **KRONDORF VILLAGE VINEYARDS**

### Kirche Vineyard - Krondorf

- Relatively youthful at 40 years old, this vineyard produces some of the highest quality Cabernet grown in the Barossa, along with superb Shiraz.
- Most of the vineyard sits on loam and red clay, with the edge on the eastern side heading into a seam of black cracking clay (Bay of Biscay).
- So named because it surrounds the Zum Kripplen Christi Lutheran Church ('Kirche' in German), built in 1864. Thirty acres planted.

### Winery Block - Krondorf

- Gnarled old bush vine Grenache planted in 1942 during the Second World War, growing in a strip of Bay of Biscay black cracking clay that runs from Bethany Village through to the end in Krondorf Village.
- A little patch of Shiraz completes this dry grown block of outstanding quality and provides a historical and beautiful outlook for our Cellar Door visitors. Five acres planted.



# Estate Vineyards

#### **EDEN VALLEY & CLARE VALLEY**

### High Eden Block - High Eden

- A unique place, one of only three South Australian sub regions recognised under the Geographical Indications Legislation. Sitting between 550-660 metres above sea level, our 73 acre patch of land in this superbly cool area is in the development stage.
- Trial plantings have been made of a range of mainly Mediterranean varieties but a strong focus will be towards Côte-Rôtie style single staked Shiraz vines

### Father in Law Block - Clare

- The Father in Law vineyard was planted by Sydney Dean Weckert in 2000, using cuttings from our most prized heritage Shiraz and Cabernet blocks.
- A mix of old vine clones, it produces grapes with a distinctive Clare Valley mint & eucalypt characters along with weight and superb structure the region is known for.
- 5 acres





FINE BAROSSA RED WINES

- The red wines of Charles Melton are considered by wine critics in all parts of the world to be archetypical examples of the supreme quality of the Barossa style.
- Rich, generous and sweetly perfumed with a structural foundation that will allow the wines to develop into superb aged bottles, over many decades.

#### THE FAMILY SERIES

### The Family Wines

- All the wines in the family series have a real connection to people.
- The Rose of Virginia, considered by many critics to be Australia's premier Rose, named by Charlie 30 years ago, after Virginia, his "flaxen haired beauty".
- The "Father-in-law Shiraz" ..... Read the back label, it says it all!!!
- And of course its partner "La Belle Mère", which translates as: "Mother in law".
- Both the wines & ladies are deserving of respect!

### Rose of Virginia

• A rich, reasonably deeply coloured Rose of some 30 years standing. Considered a ground breaking style and occupies its own unique category.

### Father in Law

 A rich rounded mouthful of Shiraz. Influenced by the small Clare component with some mint eucalypt, stronger on some years more than others.

### La Belle Mère

 A lighter "Cote du Rhone" style GSM. Not a light wine, just less concentrated than the Nine Popes. Soft savoury/sweet aromatics.

### THE REGIONAL SERIES

### The Regional Wines

- Our Regional series offers an opportunity to explore our wines sourced from the divine Barossa Valley sub-region of Krondorf.
- The French term 'terroir', refers to the specificity of place, focusing not only on the soil of the region, but also the altitude, temperature, rainfall, budburst, history, and any other differentiation that makes the region unique.
- What makes Krondorf so distinct? Bay of Biscay black cracking clay and red/brown texture contrast soils from Pleistocene era; cool gully breezes in the morning and evening allow slow, even ripening of the grapes; and moderate rainfall permits dry grown vineyards.

Cabernet Sauvignon

· Fine cedary new French oak combined with some cigar box and leafy, classic Cabernet aromas, define our Cabernet style.

### The Kirche - Shiraz Cabernet

 A classic, uniquely Australian style, combining perfume of Cabernet and richness and spice of great Barossa Shiraz.

### Reformation - Grenache

100% old vine Grenache, barrique aged and released with some cellar age. An occasional release from the great Grenache years.

#### THE ICON SERIES

### The Jeon Wines

- These are the wines for which we receive international recognition as some of the best examples of the Barossa viticulture and wine making heritage.
- Old vine fruit, the very finest oak, and careful "hands off" husbandry in the winery result in wines of stature & longevity that will repay many years of patience.

### Voices of Angels

- Single Vineyard, new French oak. Barossa "Cote Rotie".
- Co fermented with 2-5% Riesling.

### Grains of Paradise

- Our interpretation of the Classic Barossa Shiraz style.
   Rich , but not big. Warmth but not heat.
- · Finished in 100% new American oak.

Nine Popes

 Our iconic GSM, bush vine Grenache and Mataro combines with old vine Shiraz.



## Wine Australia June 9th 2016

CHARLIE MELTON:
THE BAROSSA VALLEY'S ADOPTED SON



Charlie Melton isn't a local Barossa boy. The Melton family name isn't intrinsically linked to the fabric of the Barossa through generations of blood, sweat and tears working the land. He isn't farming the same land his great, great grandfather was in the 1800s. He grew up in Sydney. Did a yearning passion for wine lead him to this historic Australian wine region? Nope. Charlie, who was then known by his given name of Graeme, only stopped in the Barossa Valley to get money to fix the broken-down Holden ute he was using for an epic Australian road trip. But fast forward to today and the Barossa is definitely home for Charlie and his family. So much so that if you ask a Barossa local to list the most passionate and proud advocates for their region then it will be a big surprise if you don't hear Charlie's name.





Halliday Companion 2020

James Halliday, the doyen of wine writing in Australia, is one of many commentators to hold our wines in high regard.





## Museum Wines

Our Museum Program wines have been stored in ideal conditions at our Krondorf Road cellar since bottling.

They represent part of our ongoing Museum Release program, where our finest wines are released with 10 years of age on them.

We are pleased to be able to offer you these very limited examples of superb bottle aged Barossa Reds.

All of these wines are wines that will benefit from some refection and patience while you drink them.



### CHARLES MELTON

Newsletter Winter 2017



Hwards

Charles Melton Wines has been the recipient of many awards from both National & International competitions over its 30 plus years existence.

Our wines stand shoulder to shoulder with the great wines of both New and Old worlds.

Krondorf Road Tammda SA 5352 TEL 08 8563 3606 FAX 08 8563 3422 Email orders@charlesmeltonwines.com.au www.charlesmeltonwines.com.au

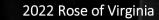


"The gentle vhythm of the seasons the ancient vichness of our earth the quiet patience of its people....."

Barossa

### CHARLES MELTON

FINE BAROSSA RED WINES



#### VINTAGE

A return towards yield normalcy, but not quite there yet, with 2022 vintage in the Barossa being around 20% down in 2021. Personally, we fared a little better, but from a winemaking point of view, never mind the width, feel the quality!! Superbly spaced rain events, all continuing through Spring, with nary a hint of heat. Bright sunny, yet mild days presented one of the most balanced and unhurried vintages for some time.

#### STYLE

A luminous hue, similar to the 2021 at youth. Watermelon musk, and another exotic fruit that won't come to mind. But delicious and vinous at the same time. Almost, but not completely dry, and in the groove, Rose of Virginia that maintains both quality and stylistic lineage of the benchmark.

#### VINIFICATION

All hand-picked fruits are de-stemmed and given a 48-72-hour cold soak before the juice is enzyme settled to brilliant clarity. Two different aromatic yeast strains are used to give both perfume and mouthfeel in the ferment. The wine is bottled immediately post ferment to retain the superb aromatic characters of guava and Turkish delight, with some added vinous complexity. Finely structured, but with a touch of red fruit richness.

#### TECHNICAL

 Grenache 68%
 Alc: 13.0%

 Shiraz 15%
 R.S: 3 g/L

 Cabernet 10%
 TA: 6.4 g/L

 Riesling 7%
 PH: 3.2 g/L

CHARLIE MELTON
WINEMAKER



FINE BAROSSA RED WINES

#### 2020 LA BELLE MÈRE GSM

#### VINTAGE

If you were to blithely paraphrase vintage 2020, "vinous horribilus" might fit, in terms of the growing conditions, beset by wind, lack of rain and fire. Thankfully the resilience of the species Vitis Vinifera came to the fore. Whilst the crop volumes were in many (or most!!) cases miniscule, the clarity of flavour and the superb acid balance in the fruit saved the day, with a mid February start and a late March finish to harvest.

#### STYLE

A great follow on to the 2019. A lovely touch of complexity on the nose, behind the perfumed red strawberry fruit. Again in the young wine, the tannins are there but they remain very fine grained and will round out and smoothen even further in a short space of time. Stuart Knox's review of the 2019 is I think, very descriptive of the 202 as well. A lovely complex uncous red that balances richness and finesse, and will make great drinking through summer and autumn, but it will also be worth tucking a few away.

#### VINIFICATION

Almost exclusively estate grown vines from our Krondorf, Rowland Flat and Lyndoch blocks contribute the grapes for the 2020 La Belle Mere. A small percentage of the ferment underwent whole bunch fermentation with the wine being pressed into 100% second fill French oak puncheons post ferment to mature on lees with regular battonage for 28 months. The wine was naturally settled prior to bottling without finings.

#### TECHNICAL

Grenache 61% Alc: 14.5% Shiraz 29 % TA: 6.3 Mataro 10 % pH: 3.3

CHARLIE MELTON WINEMAKER







G S M B A R O S S A



FINE BAROSSA RED WINES



#### 2020 FATHER IN LAW SHIRAZ

#### VINTAGE

If you were to blithely paraphrase vintage 2020, "vinous horribilus" might fit, in terms of the growing conditions, beset by wind, lack of rain and fire. Thankfully the resilience of the species Vitis Vinifera came to the fore. Whilst the crop volumes were in many (or most!!) cases miniscule, the clarity of flavour and the superb acid balance in the fruit saved the day, with a mid February start and a late March finish to harvest.

#### STYLE

Not at all dissimilar to the previous Father in Law release. Similar depth of colour but a slightly brighter crimson hue. As you would expect with a 2020 v 2018. More red fruits than black on the nose with a little more tannic presence, which will soften and settle down over the next 12 months.

#### VINIFICATION

Generally a small amount of whole bunch (10-15%) used. A frequent but gentle degree of cap management via both rack and return and pumpovers. After a coolish ferment over 10-14 days. The 2020 was pressed into a seasoned 4500L oak vat. After 26 months the wine was settled naturally and bottled.

#### TECHNICAL

Alc: 14.5% TA: 6.5 pH: 3.33

CHARLIE MELTON WINEMAKER



FINE BAROSSA RED WINES



#### 2018 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

#### VINTAGE

So little rain, but so much flavour!! The lack of any real spring rain has resulted in the crop levels similar to 2016 some 30-40% below seasonal averages. But the upside is the intensity of fruit spectrum across all varieties.

#### STYLE

Dark red fruits lead the nose, with just a whisper of leafiness. Traditional Barossa richness, balanced by finely tuned tannins with a density that augers well for longevity in the cellar. A balance between acidity and plushness gives a complex round mouthfeel.

#### VINIFICATION

Almost traditional practise. Very little or no whole bunch. A mix of crushed and destemmed fruit and fully destemmed but uncrushed berries. A cooler longer ferment on skins (up to 15 days) but no post ferment soak. Run into a mix of new French barriques (60%) and seasoned American (40%). A 30 month 'sur lie 'maturation follows, with regular battonage.

#### TECHNICAL

Alc: 13.5% TA: 6.57 pH: 3.49

CHARLIE MELTON
WINEMAKER



FINE BAROSSA RED WINES

# CHARLES MELTON GRAINS OF PARADISE

#### 2018 GRAINS OF PARADISE SHIRAZ

#### VINTAGE

So little rain, but so much flavour!! The lack of any real spring rain has resulted in the crop levels similar to 2016 some 30-40% below seasonal averages. But the upside is the intensity of fruit spectrum across all varieties.

#### STYLE

A glorious year for Barossa Shiraz. The richness and weight leavened by the lifted perfumes that this harvest provided. As is always the case superfine immersion bent American oak adds a sweetness of aromatic to balance the Shiraz spice.

#### VINIFICATION

Fully destemmed but uncrushed fruit is given a cool 10 to 14 day maceration prior to a gentle membrane pressing. The pressings and free run are combined prior to transfer to 100% American oak of which 40% is new. The oak is seasoned in France for 3 years before being coopered using the immersion (water) bending technique rather than fire bending. The 2018 Grains spent around 26 months on its lees in barrique prior to a natural settling and bottling.

#### TECHNICAL

Alc: 14.5% TA: 6.9g/L pH: 3.4

CHARLIE MELTON WINEMAKER



VOICES

OF

ANGELS

#### 2018 VOICES OF ANGELS SHIRAZ

#### VINTAGE

So little rain, but so much flavour!! The lack of any real spring rain has resulted in the crop levels similar to 2016 some 30-40% below seasonal averages. But the upside is the intensity of fruit spectrum across all varieties.

#### STYLE

Understated, but nonetheless definitive. From the cooler Voices site, the 2018 shows a sense of refinement on the nose, with a gentle but focused fruit profile at this stage.

As expected from the Voices of Angels vineyard, the palate shows a lightness of touch, but not at the expense of density. A fineness and smoothness covers the finish, with no coarseness or jarring edges. A mix of dark red fruits and fine cedar oak complete the wine.

#### VINIFICATION

100% hand-picked fruit, upon arrival at the winery is split into two parts. 85% (including the 5% Riesling component) is destemmed but not crushed, and the other 15% is left as whole bunches, including stems.

The ferment is kept cool for a 10 to 14 day maceration before being pressed off directly into 100% new French oak barriques to finish its primary and malolactic fermentations. The wine is left on its lees with regular battonage, for its full 30 month barrel ageing. It is then settled naturally and bottled, without finings.

#### TECHNICAL

 Shiraz
 95%
 Alc: 14%

 Riesling
 5%
 TA: 5.95 g/L

 pH: 3.44
 pH: 3.44

CHARLIE MELTON WINEMAKER





#### 2018 NINE POPES GSM

#### VINTAGE

So little rain, but so much flavour!! The lack of any real spring rain has resulted in the crop levels similar to 2016 some 30-40% below seasonal averages. But the upside is the intensity of fruit spectrum across all varieties including our favoured Grenache.

#### STYLE

Vintage 2018 provided almost ideal conditions for all the three varieties that make up the Nine Popes. The Grenache was fully fragrant. The Shiraz balanced but rich and the Mataro had a small berried explosion of spice in each bunch. The characteristic musk of Grenache is evident at this stage, and will increase with age, alongside the dark plums of the Shiraz and the spicy/herb of Mataro. A rich perfumed savoury GSM of weight and depth.

#### VINIFICATION

Dry farmed, old vine bush Grenache, forms the core of the 2018 Nine Popes. The fruit is co-fermented with Shiraz mostly, but with some single varietal tanks as well. A mix of whole bunch, destemmed and uncrushed fruit along with a small batch of carbonic maceration Grenache, is fermented cool and given gentle cap management, including hand plunging before being pressed to barrique (mostly French) and undergoing malolactic in oak. The wine spends its customary 24-27 months on lees before settling and bottling.

#### **TECHNICAL**

Grenache 51% Alc: 14.5% Shiraz 47% TA: 6.28g/L Mourvèdre 2% pH: 3.4

CHARLIE MELTON WINEMAKER