

THISTLEDOWN



Distant Light Grenache Shiraz 2021

McLaren Vale & Barossa

The Distant Light is what keeps many of us moving forward. It is the faint, twinkling lights of a harbour, gently beckoning home weary fishermen after time at sea. It is the comforting glow of a wood fire burning post a long, winter's walk. It is the dazzling, azure blue of the ocean, glimpsed through gullies after a long drive to the coast. It is the streak of light on the horizon, viewed from a hilltop vineyard, ushering in a new dawn.



1056 Bottles Produced

Tasting

A detailed, complex tapestry of vineyards comprising young and old, trellised and bush-vine, their common thread being vibrant, energetic fruit that is concentrated but balanced.

An intoxicating, ethereal nose of sweet, spicy black cherry, cassis and balsam. The palate unravels its silky, textural beauty over the palate. Draped with wild strawberry, north African spice, autumnal wood smoke and hints of smoky, grilled meats, it displays an elegant persistence.

Varietal: 51% Grenache, 49% Shiraz

*2021 has a black wax seal

Viticulture

The Grenache comes from Sue Trott's Home Block in Blewitt Springs and Bernard Smart's vineyard in Clarendon. The former bush vine on sand and the latter bush vine of clay loams with quartz and ironstone. The Shiraz components come from Joel Mattschoss' Shiraz on Mengler's Hill and 2 blocks of Andy Kalleske's blocks in Koonunga/Ebenezer. All are trellised, 2 spur pruned, Joel's cane pruned.

Winemaking

Though the winemaking was hugely detailed, the aim was to create something seamless. All fruit was hand-picked and wild fermented with varying percentage of whole bunch and a generally gentle extraction process. Ageing in a mix of concrete and larger French oak. No fining or filtration.

Wine Analysis

Alcohol: .14.5%

Total Acidity: 5.3 g/l

pH: 3.39

Residual Sugar: <2g/l

SO2: 79mg/l



Vintage Conditions

Rare is the vintage that combines good yields and high quality but 2021 was just that. A remarkable vintage in that it was once again pandemic affected but that it was measured and mild with none of the heat spikes or drought conditions of recent years. With good levels of winter rains filling soil profiles, the mild weather with intermittent rains throughout the growing and ripening season ensured that fruit ripened over a long period of time and the vintage.



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