

# THISTLEDOWN



## Sands of Time Old Vine Grenache 2021

### Blewitt Springs, McLaren Vale

Early on in our Grenache journey, we were introduced to Sue Trott's Home Block in the Blewitt Springs sub-region of McLaren Vale. It's beautiful aspect, raised elevation and free-draining deep sandy soils are the perfect spot for dry-grown bush-vine Grenache and we were so lucky to be offered the opportunity to purchase a little fruit. Some years on and we have learned a little about the site and refined our picking decisions and vinification to the extent that from 2017 we were content that we could do the site justice by bottling separately.

#### 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 was one of the longest in recent history. The results are spectacular, healthy fruit, moderate sugars and complex flavours, have resulted in wines of beautiful balance, fragrance and varietal typicity.

#### Winemaking

Hand-picked, on the way up, we vinify naturally in concrete and place whole bunches alternately with de-stemmed fruit to create a layer cake. A very gentle, slow fermentation is followed by maturation in oak and concrete before a careful selection is done, which is then bottled unfiltered and unfiltered 10 months later.

#### Tasting

A faithful expression of the site – beautiful, haunting aromatics, fine sandy tannins and wonderful, memorable length on the palate.

**Alcohol:** 14.5%

**Total Acidity:** 5.47 g/l

**pH:** 3.42

**Residual Sugar:** 1 g/l

**SO<sub>2</sub>:** 69 mg/l

**Fining:** None

**Vegan:** Yes

**Vegetarian:** Yes

**Vegan:** Yes

