

THISTLEDOWN



Sands of Time

Single Vineyard Grenache 2023

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.

3060 Bottles & 55 Magnums

Viticulture

Sourced from one vineyard, planted in 1952, with bush trained vines on pure sand yielding a wine of immense purity and power that is both light and intense at the same time.

Tasting

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

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 unfined and unfiltered 10 months later.



Wine Analysis

Varietal: 100% Grenache

Alcohol: .14.5%

Total Acidity: 5.47 g/l

pH: 3.42

Residual Sugar: 1g/l

SO2: 69mg/l



Vintage Conditions

The third in a series of La Niña influenced vintages, 2023 was perhaps the most extreme. In an erratic season, the consistent theme was of cooler than average temperatures and wet weather periods during the ripening period. Yields varied massively from site to site and this meant for massive variations in ripening periods and more detailed vineyard work than ever before. The lack of intense heat resulted in one of the latest seasons on record and the wines made display elegance, brilliant aromatics and supreme balance.



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