

THISTLEDOWN



Sands of Time, Old Vine Single Vineyard, Grenache, Blewitt Springs, McLaren Vale 2018

Early on in our Grenache journey, we were introduced to Sue Trott's Home Block in the Blewitt Springs sub-region of McLaren Vale. Its 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. 5 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

Above average rainfall in July and August filled soil profiles and dams but from then on the season was very dry. It is this dry weather that characterised the 2018 season and the low disease pressure coupled with ideal conditions for flowering and early development set the vines up for an excellent season. With virtually no rainfall between January and April, fruit quality in all areas was very good though some heat stress in February led to isolated defoliation. As we like to pick 'on the way up' our season began quickly with several varieties ripening at once but then progressed nicely, with the ability to pick when it suited given the settled weather.

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

Alcohol: 14.5%

Total Acidity: 5.9g/l

pH: 3.60

Residual Sugar: 1g/l

SO₂: 68mg/l

Fining: None

Vegan: Yes