

# THISTLEDOWN WINE COMPANY



## She's Electric Old Vine Single Vineyard Grenache 2017

### McLaren Vale

Some vineyards have a remarkable story to tell and we came upon such a vineyard in late 2016. At the Seaview end of Chapel Hill Rd, it's old bush vines contrasted by a planting of much younger Grenache. Apparently, half of the vineyard was burned when a bird caught light on a power line, fell to the ground and set light to the vineyard! We were so glad that some of the amazing old vines are still there for us to use.

### Vintage Conditions

2017 was defined by the very wet winter conditions that preceded it and by the cool, unpredictable and sporadically wet vintage conditions. Careful viticulture with restricted yields and open canopies were essential to healthy development. A late season, up to 6 weeks later than 2015, resulted in wines of purity and tension.

### Viticulture

A dry grown, old bush vine site in the Seaview sub-region of McLaren Vale, overlooking the Onkaparinga gorge. Farmed using organic principles, the wide spacing, small vines and extensive cover crops give this vineyard a distinctly natural feel.

### Winemaking

The low yielding vines with good, open canopies allowed for perfectly ripe fruit to be hand picked with bright fruit and crisp natural acidity. Once in the winery, we destemmed and barely crushed 50% while leaving the rest as whole bunches. Gentle treading of the grapes resulted in a natural fermentation with twice daily gentle hand plunging of the must to aid extraction. Once pressed off, the wine underwent malolactic fermentation in barrel before an 8 month stay in older barrels before bottling without fining or filtration.

### Tasting

Wines always taste better when there is a good story behind it and She's Electric is no exception. In the vineyard where the grapes are sourced from is an overhead power cable...It turns out that there had been a power cut and during the outage some birds perched on the line. As the electricity surged through the line again, a combustible bird fell to the ground and set light to the vineyard, destroying half of the original vines and in one fell swoop made a scarce resource even scarcer. The world's first avian vine selection programme! Thankfully half of the vines survived and the fruit used is from the older part of the vineyard. The aromatic, perfumed aromas on the nose lead through to a delicate yet vibrant palate of spiced wild strawberry fruit, violets and cinnamon. Textured, enticing and delicious.

**Alcohol:** 13.5%

**Total Acidity:** 5.8 g/l

**pH:** 3.62

**Residual Sugar:** <1 g/l

**SO<sub>2</sub>:** 68 mg/l

**Fining:** None

**Vegan:** Yes

**Vegetarian:** Yes