

THISTLEDOWN WINE COMPANY



She's Electric Grenache 2018

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

It is 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, particularly on Shiraz. As we like to pick "on the way up" our season began quickly with a number of varieties ripening at once but then progressed nicely, with the ability to pick when it suited given the settled weather.

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

SO₂: 72 mg/l

Fining: None

Vegan: Yes

Vegetarian: Yes