

Handpicked 2012 #2 Barossa Valley Shiraz

Australia is renowned for great Shiraz wines and the greatest of all is Barossa Shiraz. Wines such as this, from old vines in the north of the Barossa Valley, are the pinnacle of this famous style.

Made by a master winemaker in the Barossa Valley under the tutelage of our chief winemaker, this is a legend 10 years in the making.

Vintage 2012

If you are looking for perfection, Barossa vintage 2012 is about as close as you will get. Good winter rains, overall moderate temperatures, refreshing rain at just the right time and a long, dry autumn with cool nights and mild days all contributed to an outstanding harvest. Yields were below average, which did no harm to fruit quality and flavour concentration. Our Shiraz fruit was exceptional – deep in colour with great intensity of flavour and balancing natural acidity.

Vineyards

This wine is primarily from vineyards on gently undulating slopes at the northern end of the Barossa Valley. The soil here is the classic Barossa red dirt of red-yellow brown loam over red clay. This area of the Barossa Valley is famous for rich and full-bodied wines with velvety texture and strong tannins. Our wine is from vines aged between 50 and 80 years, which adds an extra dimension of concentration and complexity.

A small parcel of fruit from vineyards on more elevated slopes with a slightly cooler climate provides balancing acid, aromatic lift and elegance to this wine.

Winemaking

The fruit was picked at optimum ripeness in early-March and fermented in small overhead fermenters. Our barrels were made by Barossa cooper AP John from predominantly American oak, with a small portion of French oak for the parcel from the cooler, more elevated vineyards. We chose American hogsheads for their sweet and luscious characters that complement the bold Barossa Shiraz wine style. The French oak adds aromatics and finesse. The wine was matured in barrel for two years and then aged in bottle in our cellars for several years before release. It will continue to develop for many years.

Tasting note

This wine is made in the renowned Barossa style - rich and generous with great depth of flavour. The nose is a complex medley of spicy dark fruits and fruit cake; American and French oak adds notes of vanilla and cedar. The full-bodied palate has intense flavours of plums and raisins balanced by natural acidity and robust, integrated tannin.