

Product code: 3846

THISTLEDOWN, ADVANCE RELEASE GRENACHE, MATTSCHOSS VINEYARD, EDEN VALLEY, BAROSSA, 2019



Producer Profile

Ever since historic Scots, James Busby and John MacArthur founded the Australian wine industry in the early 19th century, the relationship between Scotland and Australia has been an enduring one.

Guardians of a long history, Thistledown Wine Co. continues the tradition of Scottish ingenuity and great Australian wine. From their small-batch winery in the idyllic Adelaide Hills, they work with pristine fruit sourced from iconic vineyard sites.

Viticulture

High on a hilltop in the Eden Valley, Joel Mattschoss has taken on the rugged, unforgiving soils and landscape- and is winning. It's got to be one of the most magical sites in all of South Australia and we're huge fans of Joel's work. We're lucky enough that he has entrusted this fruit to us and we've now made 3 vintages from it. Planted to 3 different Grenache clones, the yields are very small but the fruit is imbued with the energy and charisma of the site.

Winemaking

The 2 vineyard blocks use 3 different clones of Grenache which are hand picked and wild fermented together in concrete. Very gentle extraction focuses on aromatics rather than tannins. Once pressed, the wine was transferred to older, 500l puncheons. No fining or filtration.

Tasting Note

Medium weight with pronounced violet, wild raspberry and spice on the nose. Intense, mineral laden, multi layered and beautifully fruited a fine reflection of a remarkable site.

Food Matching

Pork belly, with buffalo mozzarella and balsamic onion.

Awards

The Wine Companion 97 Points and Great Value Award

An amalgam of quartz, sandy loams and ironstone soils; young dry-grown vines, propitiously sited at 550m and articulated across a wild yeast fermentation, incorporating 22% whole-bunch. And versed winemaking nous. Only 720 bottles made, this is exceptional. Up there with the very finest that this country crafts. Kirsch, sandalwood, pomegranate, wood smoke, clove and the rasp of real tannic mettle. This flows long, with an attractive brittle weave for savouriness and the next glass. The alcohol sits right for this late ripener. 97 Points and Great Value Award, NG, Aug 2020

The Wine Front 95+ Points

Grapes from Mengler's Hill in the Eden Valley. 720 bottles produced from seven (7!) year old vines. In the last decade or so, there's no question that Grenache has been the 'most improved' on ground. Raspberry, violet, fresh mint, spice and clarity. Wonderful transmission of site, kitten's tongue tannin, almost a playful lick, sage and rose, finesse and superb length, spice and stony things trailing in the wake of Grenache perfume. Truly wonderful. 95+ Points, GW

Technical Details

Varieties:

Grenache 100%

ABV: 14.5%

Closure: Screw cap

Colour: Red

Style: Still wine

Case Size: 6 x 75cl

Oak Treatment

Type: 500 Litre
Puncheons

% wine oaked: 100

% new oak: None

The Real Review 95 Points

Translucent crimson red colour with brown edges. Looks as if it's seen some air through winemaking. Purple and red berries, bunchy sinew, juicy and open knit. An intense wine, with an elevated acid line. Quality fruit. Beautifully made. 95 Points, NB