ALLIANCE WINE

Thistledown, Fool On The Hill Grenache, Eden Valley, Australia, 2021

Producer Profile

Masters of Wine, Giles Cooke & Fergal Tynan, founded Thistledown Wines in 2010 after discovering iconic vineyard sites in the McLaren Vale, Barossa Valley and Adelaide Hills.

They make hand-made, small batch wines that perfectly illustrate the benefits of great sites and intelligent, minimalist winemaking.

Viticulture

The Fool on the Hill is sourced from two tiny plots of essentially dry grown bush-vine Grenache, planted by Joel Mattschoss, high in the Eden Valley on soils that require a vine to struggle. It's a spectacular plot with an unusually bright future, though the impenetrable soils, lack of adequate water and exposure would have led all but the bravest to question the sense of the project. One of the highest Grenache vineyards in South Australia at 550m, the meagre soils are strewn with pink quartz and ironstone. 3 clonal selections of Grenache have been planted in bush-vine form with only a little water to establish them. Still young by our standards, these small vines yield fruit with high intensity.

Winemaking

The fruit was hand-picked early in the morning of 27th March before swift transport to the winery where we retained 20% whole bunches. A gentle ferment in concrete egg was followed by pressing to 500 litre 2nd and 3rd year French oak.

Tasting Note

The signature Thistledown lifted aromatics are present but the palate offers more sinew and spice than those from McLaren Vale. Textural, almost chewy but polished dark cherry, mineral and warm spices carry through to a finish of incredible length.

Food Matching

Salted Beef Brisket, Slow Roasted Pork Belly

Awards

Robert Parkers The Wine Advocate 95 Points The Wine Front 95 Points James Suckling 95 Points

Product code: 4516

Technical Details

Varieties:
Grenache 100%

VEGETARIAN   VEGAN

ABV: 14.5%
Closure: Screw cap
Colour: Red
Style: Still wine
Case Size: 6 x 75cl

Oak Ageing
Type: 500 litre French Oak
% wine oaked: 100
% new oak: None

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