



Product code: 3769

THISTLEDOWN, THE DISTANT LIGHT GRENACHE- SHIRAZ, MCLAREN VALE & BAROSSA, AUSTRALIA, 2018



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

A detailed, complex tapestry of vineyards comprising young and old, trellised and bush-vine, their common thread being vibrant, energetic fruit that is concentrated but balanced. The Shiraz components come from Adrian Hoffmann's Old Home Block, Joel Mattschoss' Shiraz on Menglers Hill and 2 blocks of Andy Kalleske's blocks in Koonunga/Ebenezer. All are trellised, 2 spur pruned, Joel's cane pruned. The Grenache comes from Sue Trott's Home Block in Blewitt Springs and Bernard Smart's vineyard in Clarendon. The former bush vine on sand and the latter bush vine of clay loams with quartz and ironstone.

Winemaking

Though the winemaking was hugely detailed, the aim was to create something seamless. All fruit was hand-picked and wild fermented with varying percentage of whole bunch and a generally gentle extraction process. Ageing in a mix of concrete and larger French oak. No fining or filtration.

Tasting Note

The Distant Light is what keeps many of us moving forward. It is the faint, twinkling lights of a harbour, gently beckoning home weary fishermen after time at sea. It is the comforting glow of a wood fire burning post a long, winter's walk. It is the dazzling, azure blue of the ocean, glimpsed through gullies after a long drive to the coast. It is the streak of light on the horizon, viewed from a hilltop vineyard, ushering in a new dawn. An intoxicating, ethereal nose of sweet, spicy black cherry, cassis and balsam. The palate unravels its silky, textural beauty abundant with wild strawberry, north African spice, autumnal wood smoke and hints of smoky, grilled meat flavours.

Food Matching

Turkey, rich tomato based pasta sauce, and maybe even a slow braised lamb ragu.

Awards

The Wine Companion 95 Points

A neighbourly blend of grenache from Blewitt Springs and Clarendon in the Vale, with warmer shiraz from Ebenezer and Mengler Hill. Picked by hand, fermented under the aegis of spontaneity with ample whole-bunch seasoning and maturation in top-drawer French oak. This is seamless. Again, the tannins maketh the wine: pithy, taut and juicy. Gorgeous aromas of mottled red plum, five-spice, white pepper, clove, cardamon and kirsch, expanding across the finish. Grenache

Technical Details

Varieties:

Grenache 51%

Shiraz 49%

ABV: 14.5%

Closure: Cork Stopper

Colour: Red

Style: Still wine

Case Size: 6 x 75cl

Oak Treatment

Type: Large French Oak barrels

% wine oaked: 100

% new oak: None

the clear leader of the pack. For the better. Thrilling length. I'd drink this with youth on its side. 95 Points, NG

The Wine Front 95 Points

Grenache (51%) from Blewitt Springs and Clarendon meets Shiraz (49%) from Ebenezer and Eden Valley. Raised in concrete and large format French oak. All the berries, exotic spice, dried mint and sage, musk and roses. Just over medium-bodied, love the feel of the suede-like tannin, ripe berries, dried beef and grilled mushroom, spicy, perfumed and long to close. Classic feel to this, and I'd say it will age pretty nicely too. 95 Points

Robert Parkers The Wine Advocate 93 Points

blend of 51% McLaren Vale Grenache (from Blewitt Springs and Clarendon) and 49% Barossa Shiraz (from growers Hoffmann, Kelleske and Mattschoss), the 2018 Distant Light Grenache Shiraz displays more obvious oak than the other Thistledown wines, despite being aged in a mix of larger-format barrels and concrete vessels. The notes of cedar and vanilla are balanced by concentrated cherry-berry fruit, with delicate herbal nuances (mint, bay leaf) adding welcome grace notes. It's medium to full-bodied and silky on the palate, polished, refined and elegant, with a long, harmonious finish.' 93 Points