



Technical Details

Varieties:

Shiraz 51%

Grenache 49%

ABV: 14.5%

Closure: Cork Stopper

Colour: Red

Style: Still wine

Case Size: 6 x 75cl

Oak Ageing

Type: Large French Oak barrels

% wine oaked: 100

% new oak: None

Product code: 3769

Thistledown, The Distant Light Shiraz-Grenache, McLaren Vale & Barossa, Australia, 2020



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

2020 vintage conditions were perfect in many ways. A warm, dry early season gave way to a mild, sometimes cool, February and March which allowed for ripening at a very relaxed pace. Small yields across all regions concentrated the fruit flavours while the dry conditions led to low disease pressures. An intoxicating, ethereal nose of sweet, spicy black cherry, cassis and balsam. The palate unravels its silky, textural beauty over the palate. Draped with wild strawberry, north African spice, autumnal wood smoke and hints of smoky, grilled meats, it displays an elegant persistence.

Food Matching

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

Awards

Huon Hooke 96 Points

Good depth of colour and hue, there are some char-oak aromas but the bouquet while clean and fresh is a bit shy. The palate has ironstone and graphite as well as char-oak over rich plummy fruit and pleasingly supple tannins giving it an agreeably soft texture. It's young and straightforward now and would reward cellaring. Concentrated and velvet-smooth, with a tremendously long aftertaste. Great potential. 96 Points, HH, Feb 2022.

