



Product code: 3486

## THISTLEDOWN, THIS CHARMING MAN SINGLE VINEYARD OLD VINE GRENACHE, CLARENDON, MCLAREN VALE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 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

A remarkable site that has vines of 100 years old. The entire site, planted high in the picturesque Clarendon sub-region, is dry grown bush vines and has been farmed by the same family for 3 generations. This wine is sourced from one particular block where the canopy is raised slightly higher above the ground, allowing for better air circulation and increased radiated sunlight.

### Winemaking

Hand picked fruit was transported to the winery where 20% was retained as whole bunches to be placed on the base of a 2 ton open fermenter. Wild fermented and gently hand plunged twice a day during active fermentation. Pressed off to 300 litre hogsheads, of which 25% were new.

### Technical Details

**Varieties:**  
Grenache 100%

**ABV:** 14.5%

**Closure:** Natural cork

**Colour:** Red

**Style:** Still wine

**Case Size:** 6 x 75cl

### Oak Treatment

**Time:** 12 months

**Type:** French 300 Litre Hogshead

**% wine oaked:** 66

**% new oak:** 25

### Tasting Note

Right across South Australia, the 2019 vintage will be remembered as a very challenging one. Very dry conditions persisted throughout the growing season while some areas also had to contend with frost, hail and wind – all of which reduced the crop but helped increase concentration and quality. This wine displays muscular yet elegant silky black fruits couple with deep, rich, warming spices, hints of violet, mineral and black cherry.

### Food Matching

Beef casserole, coq au vin.

### Awards

#### James Suckling 97 Points

This is sourced from the Smart Vineyard, up on the ridge at Clarendon and has a very singular, powerful expression of raspberry and red-plum aromas, as well as some bracken and forest-wood notes. Very pure. The palate has a succulent feel with acidity that enlivens the rich, powerful, red-berry flavors. The tannins round the flanks, providing a crescendo feel to the long, fresh and upbeat finish. 97 Points. May 2020.

#### Jancis Robinson MW 17.5 Points

Cork-stoppered. Vines grown in Clarendon by Bernard Smart, dubbed a charming man and mentioned in relation to the Yangarra, High Sands Grenache 2017. Thistledown describe the vineyard as a 'remarkable site that has vines of 100 years old. The entire site, planted high in the picturesque Clarendon sub-region, is dry-grown bush vines and has been farmed by the same family for three

generations. This wine is sourced from one particular block where the canopy is raised slightly higher above the ground, allowing for better air circulation and increased radiated sunlight.' Hand-picked on 15 March and transported to the winery where 20% was retained as whole bunches to be placed on the base of a two-tonne open fermenter. Fermented with ambient yeast and gently hand-plunged twice a day during active fermentation. Pressed off to 300-litre hogsheads, of which 25% were new French. Just 960 bottles produced. Mid garnet. Toasty, broad, biscuity nose. Mmm. Lovely layered, sweet, pure, gorgeous instructive example of unadorned Grenache with a fine finish. Much more evolved than the S C Pannell 2017 even though it's a year younger. Rose petals and vibrant, rather beautiful finish. This charming wine ... but will it last that long? 17.5 Points, JR

**James Halliday Wine Companion 96 Points**

Sourced from a high-canopied plot of centurion bush vines, deep rooted and resilient. Hand harvested, fermented wild and plunged regularly in an open-top vessel, with 20% whole bunches. Pressed off to 300L oak (25% new). More muscular than its svelte Blewitt brethren. The fruit, warmer: kirsch, orange peel, tangerine and black cherry. Floral. More overt and impactful. Mineral force, over sandy and ethereal detail. But it makes me no less giddy! 96 Points, NG, 2021.