



Thistledown, This Charming Man Single Vineyard Old Vine Grenache, Clarendon, McLaren Vale, South Australia, 2023

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

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 20% were new.

Tasting Note

On a beautiful hillside in the Clarendon sub-region of McLaren Vale, three generations of the Smart family have devoted their lives to Grenache. Decades have passed where precious few valued their crop and yet they endured. That this remarkable vineyard has sustained is down to one man, Bernard Smart and this wine pays homage to this charming man. The 2023 vintage marks the passing of Bernard Smart. He was there when they picked the fruit and we'll raise a glass to him as we open the first bottles of '23. 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

Robert Parker Wine Advocate 96 Points James Suckling 96 Points The Real Review 96 points Halliday Wine Companion 2025 Special Value Grenache of the year 98 Points



Product code: 3486

Technical Details

Varieties:

Grenache 100%



ABV: 14.5%

Closure: Natural cork

Colour: Red

Style: Still wine

Case Size: 6 x 75cl

Oak Ageing

Time: 12 Months

Type: French 300 Litre
Hogshead

% wine oaked: 66

% new oak: 20

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