



Product code: 2943

THISTLEDOWN, THORNY DEVIL GRENACHE, MCLAREN VALE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 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

In 2014, the vineyard the fruit came from performed out of its skin and it was while in the vineyard that they came across a little lizards fellow called a Thorny Devil. They liked the name and the fruit produced beautiful wine and so decided that it was high enough quality to be bottled on its own. In 2018, the fruit came from Barossa, and from 2019 the Grenache comes from some of the finest vineyards in McLaren Vale. Old bush trained vines and sandy, mineral strewn vineyards ensure that this is amongst their most delicious Grenaches.

Winemaking

With Grenache, they are always looking to maximise fruit purity, texture and finesse rather than making just another rich red wine. While there is no denying that Grenache is more burly than Pinot, they always have the vision of making Pinot style wines within the, albeit, challenging framework of Grenache! The Fruit was gently crushed to retain as many whole berries as possible before a cold soak prior to fermentation. Fermentation began naturally and hand plunging twice a day was carried out through to dryness. Gently pressed off skins before 10 months in old oak hogsheads.

Tasting Note

In 2020, the fruit for Thorny Devil came from a variety of some of the finest vineyards in McLaren Vale. Old bush trained vines and sandy, mineral strewn vineyards ensure that this is amongst our most delicious Grenaches. Characteristic McLaren Vale perfume and spice with a beguiling texture and perfume that keeps you interested.

Food Matching

A beautiful match for game meats, North African lamb and charcuterie.

Awards

The Real Review 91 Points

Medium, intense ruby in the glass. A subdued nose of black fruits and dusty earth. The palate is heading into the full spectrum with plush black fruits and dark slate minerals. Firm and gripping tannins balance the weight and give good length. A touch raw currently but time will bring it together quickly. 91 Points, SK, 2020

James Suckling 93 Points

An attractively concentrated grenache with aromas of pomegranate and red berries, as well as berry pastry. Vibrant and concentrated on the palate, this delivers juicy textural spring and a good build of flavor and tannin. Drink over the

Technical Details

Varieties:

Grenache 100%

ABV: 14.5%

Closure: Screw cap

Colour: Red

Style: Still wine

Case Size: 6 x 75cl

Oak Treatment

Time: 10 Months

Type: nd and third use barrels (225 and 300 litre)

% wine oaked: 100

% new oak: 10

next six years. Screw cap. 93 Points, NS, 2021.

The Wine Anorak 93 Points

This is from old vines and a mix of different parcels. Textured with lovely sweet fruit and real balance. Fine, pure and layered: ripe and seamless. 93/100, JG, Sept 2021