

THISTLEDOWN



Fool on the Hill

Single Vineyard, Old Vine Grenache 2024

Eden Valley, Barossa

As one of the “outsiders” we’ve always been drawn to people with a similarly maverick streak – those willing to do things the hard way. But the path to success is rarely an even, linear one. Doubters, cynics and dilettantes line the path and it takes an iron will to continue on. When the destination is not yet known, or even in sight, one’s sanity may even be questioned. This only seeks to galvanise and to spur one forward.

The Fool on the Hill is sourced from a beautiful contoured site high above the Barossa Valley. Isolated and challenging, those pioneers who originally had the foresight to plant, must have sometimes questioned their sanity.

2574 Bottles Produced

Tasting

The signature Thistledown lifted aromatics are present but the palate offers more sinew and spice than those from McLaren Vale. Textural, almost chewy but polished dark cherry, mineral and warm spices carry through to a finish of incredible length.

Viticulture

The first vintage from Joel Mattschoss’ Trial Hill Vineyard, these old bush trained vines have been brought back into rude health and their fruit is filled with energy, intensity and mineral strewn complexity.

Winemaking

The fruit was hand-picked early in the morning before swift transport to the winery where we retained 20% whole bunches. Wild fermented in concrete pyramid before pressing to large format seasoned oak for 11 months.



Wine Analysis

Varietal: 100% Grenache

Alcohol: .14%

Total Acidity: 5.7 g/l

pH: 3.6

Residual Sugar: 1g/l

SO2: 72 mg/l



Vintage Conditions

The '24 vintage, being the first El Niño season, was expected to be warm and dry but if anything, the early season conditions were the opposite. Unsettled, cool, and sometimes wet weather resulted in erratic fruit set but from the end of January onwards, the weather was settled and very dry. Aside from a few days of heat in March, the season continued, with the moderate temperatures and mild conditions allowing for picking all varieties at the ideal moment.



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