

2017 SHIRAZ



Although our commitment to Shiraz is historic – with the oldest Shiraz vines in Margaret River – the Vasse Felix Shiraz style is modern Australian, cool climate elegance. Wild fermented in small batches, the wine's complexity is deep and true to its unique environment. Only the highest grade vineyard sections make this fine, small volume Shiraz.

TASTING NOTES

APPEARANCE Bright, ruby garnet.

NOSE Uplifted raspberry and rose stem mingle with very spicy notes of liquorice, black pepper and cinnamon bark. Subtle hints of parsley, fennel and Thai basil enhance this complex and intensely fragrant perfume.

PALATE Vibrant, refreshing and moreish, the palate shows lifted fresh raspberry with spicy red berry coulis tang, black pepper and purple basil flavours. It finishes light and dry with a lingering perfume.

WINEMAKER COMMENTS

In a beautifully mild to cool season, our finest Shiraz sections of our vineyards were selected for special handling in the Winery. Over the last few years we have been increasing the portion of our more southern spicy parcels of fruit, as well as the percentage of carbonic maceration and whole bunch fermentation due to the vibrancy, complexity and drinkability these techniques bring to the final wine. A portion of the fruit was carefully tipped into an oak vat as whole bunches. The vat was closed up and filled with CO₂ and left untouched for 7 days, causing an enzymatic fermentation in the uncrushed berry. The fruit was then foot stomped and allowed to start wild fermentation. The balance of the fruit was fermented in small sections with only wild yeast after carefully destemming the fruit, without crushing, to ensure gentle whole berry fermentation without stems. The fermented wine was pressed to older French Oak Barriques for only 11 months to ensure the wine retained its elegant, fine fruit perfumes.

VINTAGE DESCRIPTION

2017 was a cooler and later vintage than the previous 10 years; a year of elegant, perhaps slightly lighter bodied wines, though ripe in flavour, vibrant and very perfumed. Higher than average yields in combination with a cooler season contributed to delayed ripening of the fruit and good acid retention. Some timely warmth and sunshine occurred throughout January, although February temperatures remained moderate with some rainfall. With the cooler weather, canopy management and fruit thinning was imperative to mitigate disease pressures and allow for even, persistent ripening. There was a warm start to March to finish the white harvest, followed by the driest April since 1982, finishing the reds beautifully.

VARIETIES 100% Shiraz

HARVESTED March 2017

FERMENTATION

100% wild yeast

87% destemmed and uncrushed, leaving whole berries fermented wild.

13% carbonic macerated for 7 days, followed by whole bunch fermentation for 10-13 days.

FERMENTATION VESSEL

Static stainless steel fermenter and small open top vats.

TIME ON SKINS

16 days average

PRESSING

Basket Press

MATURATION

French Oak Barrique

100% 1-6 year old

11 months

BOTTLED May 2018

TA 5.9g/L **PH** 3.55

RESIDUAL SUGAR 0.17g/L

ALCOHOL 13.5%

VEGAN Yes

CELLARING Now until 2023