

Clairault

2018 CLAIRAULT CELLAR RELEASE WHOLE BUNCH SHIRAZ

Blend: 100% Shiraz

Vineyard: Bridgeland Vineyard, Karridale

Winemaking: Fruit was hand-picked in the early hours of the morning and processed with 50% as whole-cluster on the bottom of the fermenters, and the other 50% destemmed as whole berries on top. The fruit was open-fermented and punched down three times a day for 8 days. The still fermenting wine was then gently separated from the skins and allowed to finish ferment in old Burgundian-style oak barrels. The wine was then aged in oak for 7 months with battonage every four weeks, after which it was blended to tank, clarified and bottled.

Vintage: After an unseasonable dry early Winter, late rains in August and September came to the rescue. Budburst commenced in early August and continued until late September. Significant rain events persisted through to mid-October, with conditions fining up through the flowering period enabling successful flowering and fruit set. Vine growth was excellent and excess vigour issues were dealt with by employing shoot thinning and vine de-legging practices, in a successful attempt to deter regrowth and crowding of fruit zone areas. Harvest began on the 27th January, in line with the earliest picking dates on record, trailing out until completion on the 13th April.

Aroma: White pepper, strawberries, red apple skin and currants.

Palate: Pure palate of bright red fruits, tensile acidity and crunchy cherry skin tannin laced with stalky spice and dark chocolate. Finishes fresh and pristine with a blossom and spice medley as an afterthought.

Cellaring: Up to 8 years, however we enjoy it for freshness now.

Alcohol: 13%

