

121 SETTLERS

Variety: Old Vine Shiraz

Vintage: 2017

Region: Barossa Valley, South Australia

Alcohol: 14.5%

By 1850, Krondorf village comprised 121 Settlers and their families. These 121 souls formed the beginning of a new community that shaped the future of the Barossa Valley. Their spirit is remembered through the rare, meticulously selected old vine vineyards with vine age of at least 35 years. Typically, these grapes are intensely flavoured and concentrated, with a fine natural and elemental balance, supple tannin quality and integrated acidity.

Vineyard

The grapes for the 121 Settlers Shiraz were picked from a single site in the southern end of the Barossa. The site lies in the St Jakobi area, over the western ridge of sub-region, Lyndoch. Planted over a mix of red clay and loam, they are early-ripening grapes, which further protects from marginal weather influence. The rustic, dense soils drive opulence and structure within the resultant wines. The old vines are low yielding, with small berries that give concentrated fruit flavours. Vines are tended to using a minimalistic approach, whereby all treatments to the grapes are reasoned and used only when absolutely necessary.

Winemaking

Again, in the cellar, the wine is made with a minimalistic approach. With such top-quality grape selection, a considered winemaking process is all that is required, with the aim to drive the attributes and characteristics of the vineyard into the wine. Juice is partially gravity flowed, with gentle pigeage to extract tannins, then the wine is aged in a combination of new and second-use French oak barrels for 16-18 months. The result is a full-bodied but linear and finessed wine – attributes that are reflective of the site.

Tasting notes

Concentrated plum and blackberry fruit on the nose, with well-integrated oak. A rich array of dark fruits with graphite and aniseed are rounded out with fine tannins on the palate.

Vintage 2017

Barossa's 2017 vintage wrapped up a month or more later than in recent years, with some standout wines showing a lot of promise and an overall yield 20-30% above a low five-year average. Barossa's 2017 reds have been described by one winemaker as having "incredible length of flavour, full-bodied, yet fine. Not a boisterous year – rather one with exceptional elegance and poise".

