

# Zitta

*History in the tasting*

SINGLE VINEYARD - ESTATE WINES  
BAROSSA VALLEY



**DE FAZIO**  
VINEYARD  
*Established 1864*

NITSCHKE ROAD, GREENOCK  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5360

## 2015 BERNADO SHIRAZ

Bernardo is a single vineyard wine sourced from two blocks on the De Fazio Vineyard. The wine has been named after wine maker Angelo De Fazio's grandfather, whose traditional, sustainable land management practices are still used in the management of the De Fazio Vineyard today. Counting ladybirds and spiders on the vines was one of ways he used to check in with mother nature to see that things were in balance.

An intense, powerful and full-bodied, yet sophisticated wine, it exhibits dense, classic North Western Barossa Shiraz characters. Enjoy on release, or cellar to further soften the structure of the wine and reveal additional layers of complexity.

### GROWING SEASON

2015 produced excellent wines. It began with a wet Winter followed by a very dry growing season with less than half the average rainfall. Spring was warmer than average leading to an earlier budburst and early vintage. Summer brought average temperatures, ensuring the dry conditions were not stressful to the vines, and a slow even ripening ensued. Quality is brilliant, certainly one of the highlights in recent years.

### VINEYARD

Bernardo Shiraz is sourced from two blocks on the De Fazio Vineyard. The main block has alluvial soils containing rounded pebbles mixed in red clay and limestone. This block is the remains of an ancient riverbed that runs through the middle of the property. The second block is situated in the north end of the vineyard and consists of red clay over slate and bluestone that provides a challenge for the vine roots to penetrate. Low yielding, the vines on this block produce small, tight bunches that have intense flavour and colour.

### WINE MAKING

The 2015 Bernardo Shiraz was harvested between the 7th & 15th of March, and the grapes gently de-stemmed into small open-top fermenters. The grapes were fermented for eight to ten days on skins, were hand pump overs twice daily. The must was traditionally pressed and immediately filled to new and seasoned French and American oak hogsheads, where it completed fermentation and matured for 24 months prior to bottling.

### TASTING NOTES

2015 Bernardo Shiraz is thick purple-black in colour. Impressive and alluring. There are initial aromas of blackberry, and fruit cake. Then musk spice emerges along with chocolate and a hint of sweet tabaco. The palate is charming. It is faultless with impeccable balance of fruit, tannin and oak. Rich dark fruits lead the way with dusty oak adding support and a fine backbone of natural tannin meshing the layers together with continuity. Right to the end this wine entertains, with a lengthy, almost perpetual finish. Bernardo Shiraz can be enjoyed now but will cellar for a decade or more.

[www.defaziowines.com](http://www.defaziowines.com)