

Zitta

History in the tasting

SINGLE VINEYARD - ESTATE WINES
BAROSSA VALLEY



DE FAZIO
VINEYARD
Established 1864

NITSCHKE ROAD, GREENOCK
SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5360

2017 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

2017 was stunning. The vines got off to a fantastic start with a wetter than average Winter and mild Spring. Summer brought typically average warm conditions with some excellent rainfall, twice the average. This kept the vines in superb condition for steady ripening into Autumn which remained dry with warm sunny days and cool nights. Yields from 2017 are good and quality is exceptional.

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 2017 Bernardo Shiraz was harvested between the 14th & 22nd 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

2017 Bernardo Shiraz is rich in colour. The aroma is abundant and uplifting. Intense perfume of Christmas cake, blackberries, violets, rosemary and cedar oak. It leaves no doubt a serious wine awaits. The palate is unmistakable Barossa Valley Shiraz. It is rich and robust with full-bodied flavours of black plum, chocolate and a hint of vanilla bean. Whilst powerful, there is an inherent poise and balance. Tannins are prevalent but perfectly in balance adding firm structure to the dark plush fruit. Oak is evident though aptly supportive and not dominant. The length is strikingly persistent completing this complex wine. This Bernardo Shiraz can be enjoyed now but will cellar for a decade or more.

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