

`Red Queen of the Eden Valley` Shiraz 2013

Eden Valley, South Australia, Australia



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| Grape Varieties | 100% Shiraz |
| Winemaker | Elena Brooks |
| Closure | Screwcap |
| ABV | 14.5% |
| Acidity | 7.18g/L |
| Wine pH | 3.45 |
| Bottle Sizes | 75cl |

PRODUCER

Dandelion Vineyards is the venture of talented winemaker Elena Brooks, and her husband Zar. Their project makes wines from the Barossa and Eden Valleys, Fleurieu, the Adelaide Hills and McLaren Vale. Elena hails from Bulgaria. Her mother worked for a local producer, and so much of Elena's childhood was spent in a winery. By 15, she was well-versed in the ins and outs of the winemaking process, and by 16, she had made her first wine. After formal study and stints making wine worldwide, Elena eventually settled in McLaren Vale with Zar and founded Dandelion Vineyards. Nick Stock, one of Australia's leading journalists, wrote about Dandelion Vineyards saying, "The approach is remarkably simple and sees Elena making wine from a suite of beautiful old vineyards across that blessed curve that runs from the Barossa, up through the Eden Valley and Adelaide Hills and down into McLaren Vale."

VINEYARDS

The Red Queen of the Eden Valley vineyard is owned and managed by Vigneron Colin Kroehn and was 101 years old in vintage 2012. These ancient, gnarled vines are not only surviving but thriving on their own roots in some of the oldest soils on the planet.

VINTAGE

2013 was a fine growing season, with some warm days balanced by consistently cool nights. It was a relatively dry season and grapes ripened a touch earlier than usual. The weather leading up to harvest was mostly dry, ensuring perfectly healthy fruit could be picked in the first week of March.

VINIFICATION

On 8th April whole bunches of ripe Shiraz grapes were hand harvested, then gently crushed two thirds of the grapes over a third of whole bunch fruit and naturally fermented in open fermenters for 11 days, hand plunged three times a day, before careful basket pressing into half new and half one year old French oak barriques to finish fermentation. After two and a half years maturation and a racking in the same oak, the wine was bottled.

TASTING NOTES

Deep purple-crimson. An immensely complex, dark, brooding character, red and black fruits, pepper and spice, with liquorice and tar on the nose. Lingering black fruit on the palate, with pepper seasoning. A mix of red and black berries complimented by vibrant pepper and leaf notes. Elegant tannins and lingering acidity help extend the finish and the overall balance is impeccable.

AWARDS

Decanter World Wine Awards 2016, Silver