

Charles Melton,

`Nine Popes` Barossa Valley 2018**Barossa Valley, South Australia, Australia**

Grape Varieties **51% Grenache**
 47% Syrah
 2% Mataro

Winemaker **Charlie Melton**

Closure **Stelvin Lux**

ABV **14.5%**

Acidity **6.28g/L**

Wine pH **3.4**

Bottle Sizes **75cl**

Notes **Vegetarian, Practising
Organic, Vegan**

PRODUCER

Charlie Melton was among the first to recognise the value and tradition of Barossa Valley's old-vine Grenache, Shiraz and Mourvèdre (Mataro). While others were grubbing up Shiraz to plant more fashionable varieties, Charlie and a small band of Barossa winemakers convinced farmers to keep their historic vineyards. Since 1984, Charlie has produced premium Barossa red wines. Initially styled on those from the Rhône, they are now considered leading examples in their own right. Charles Melton is a family project, and today his daughter Sophie, a talented young winemaker, assists Charlie in the winery.

VINEYARDS

The Grenache in this blend comes from old bush vines in the Barossa, many of which are over 80 years old. The Mourvèdre is also from a small parcel of bush vines in the Eden Valley, whilst the Shiraz is trellis grown. The blend is made up primarily of grapes from Charles Melton's prime vineyards plus some from the vineyards of a small number of trusted partner growers. None of the vineyards are irrigated, they are all dry grown. This coupled with the low yielding old vines leads to great concentrations of flavour in the grapes.

VINTAGE

Average winter and spring rainfall set the vineyard up for a great season. Warm and dry conditions in late spring and early summer encouraged early ripening and harvest began in the first week of February.

VINIFICATION

Nine Popes was vinified with a couple of key objectives in mind. Both whole bunch fermentation and destemmed but uncrushed berries were used during the maceration period, to ensure the greatest degree of fragrance, along with cool fermentation temperatures and careful cap management to gain the silky texture and density that the Popes is known for. The 2018 underwent malolactic fermentation in a mix of old and new oak, where it remained for 18 months. The wine was then transferred to new French oak for a further twelve months prior to natural settling and bottling.

TASTING NOTES

This wine opens with a density of aromatics and notes of toasty flint, anise and licorice. On the palate, generous but finely structured sweet red fruit characters are intermingled with all spice. It is rich and complex in the Nine Popes tradition.