

S.C. Pannell,

`Basso` McLaren Vale Garnacha 2020

McLaren Vale, South Australia, Australia



S.C. PANNELL
MCLAREN VALE



Grape Varieties	100% Grenache
Winemaker	Stephen Pannell
Closure	Screwcap
ABV	14%
Acidity	5g/L
Wine pH	3.54
Bottle Sizes	75cl

PRODUCER

Stephen Pannell is one of the best and brightest of the new generation of Australian winemakers, having spent a decade working as chief red wine maker at Hardys before striking out on his own in 2004. Steve has worked all over the world, including with Aldo Vajra in Barolo and for Domaine Dujac and Pousse d'Or. His broad experience has helped shape his approach to winemaking and his wines are true expressions of the grapes and vineyards of McLaren Vale. In October 2015, Steve was named Winemaker of the Year by the consumer wine magazine, Gourmet Traveller Wine.

VINEYARDS

The idea for an early release, low sulphur, unfiltered Grenache had been bubbling away for a few years. Finally, in 2017, access to fruit from the right vineyard in Blewitt Springs: dry grown and pruned to single-bud spurs, sparked the Basso project in to life. The vineyard, planted in the late 1970s, lies at 80 metres above sea level on sandy loams over clays. From the Latin Bassus, meaning low, Basso is low in additions and speaks clearly of the place from which it comes.

VINTAGE

A dry start to the season, with lower than expected winter and spring rainfall, followed by a day of intense heat right on flowering led to some early anxiety around yields. Fires struck parts of South Australia around Christmas, but fortunately this part of McLaren Vale was not affected. The days became cooler sooner than anticipated, allowing for long and even ripening.

VINIFICATION

The grapes were hand picked at 13.7 Baume. Fermentation took place in open top fermenters with daily pump overs. The grapes spent 10 days on skins before gentle pressing. After undergoing malolactic fermentation, the wine was aged for ten months in large, old French oak vats. The wine was racked twice before bottling, without filtration, on the 8th of February 2021.

TASTING NOTES

Raspberry liqueur, red apple skin, dark spice and cinnamon make for a vibrant, seductive perfume. The palate follows through with fresh blue and red berry fruit. Youthful and medium bodied, with super fine tea-like tannins that carry red fruits on the finish.