

Shaw + Smith,

`Balhannah Vineyard` Adelaide Hills Shiraz 2019

Adelaide Hills, South Australia, Australia



Grape Varieties	100% Shiraz
Winemaker	Adam Wadewitz
Closure	Screwcap
ABV	13.5%
Residual Sugar	0.3g/L
Acidity	5g/L
Wine pH	3.77
Bottle Sizes	75cl, 150cl
Notes	Vegetarian, Practising Biodynamic, Practising Organic, Vegan

PRODUCER

The dynamic partnership of cousins Martin Shaw and Michael Hill Smith MW began in 1989 when the duo decided to realise their dream of making wine together. A talent for wine runs in this family, with Martin honing his craft at the University of Bordeaux, and Michael being the first Australian to pass the Master of Wine exams in 1988. Since founding Shaw + Smith, their goal has been to make exciting, refined wines, exclusively from the Adelaide Hills, that rank among Australia's best. Viticulturist Murray Leake and Chief winemaker Adam Wadewitz, one of Australia's brightest winemaking talents, have helped take Shaw + Smith to new heights. "30 years ago, we made the wines in the winery; today, we make them in the vineyard," says Adam.

VINEYARDS

The Balhannah vineyard was planted with low-yielding Shiraz clones in 2005, at a density of approximately 5,500 vines per hectare. The plot has a north-facing aspect, and soils comprise of loam over clay, ironstone, quartzite and shale.

VINTAGE

The 2019 growing season proved to be challenging for even the most experienced winemakers. This vintage has been characterised by lower-than-average yields of grapes with intense flavours and a clean fruit profile, despite the warm and dry summer. Natural acidity is a key feature in all wines across the portfolio.

VINIFICATION

The grapes were picked by hand and meticulously sorted. Fermentation of both whole bunches (around 70%) and destemmed berries took place in open-top vats, with gentle plunging and minimal working. The wine was aged in 500-litre French oak puncheons (30% new) for 14 months, without fining or filtration. Once bottled, the wine was then aged for a further 14 months before release.

TASTING NOTES

This single-vineyard Shiraz is elegant and complex, displaying charcuterie notes and a mineral graphite edge that perfectly expresses the character of the Balhannah vineyard. Fragrant and lifted, the wine has firm but smooth tannins, beautiful structure and ample concentration to develop complex tertiary characteristics over the next 15 years.