

Charles Melton,

Barossa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2018

Barossa Valley, South Australia, Australia

**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 estate is situated in Krondorf, at an elevation of 290 metres. The vines were planted in 1989 and 1974 and they produce some of the highest quality Cabernet grown in the Barossa, along with superb Shiraz. Most of the vineyard sits on loam and red clay, with the edge on the eastern side, heading into a seam of black cracking clay.

VINTAGE

The 2018 vintage saw very little rain, but the grapes produced were highly concentrated. The lack of spring rain resulted in reduced yields, up to 30-40% below seasonal averages. However, the intensity of the fruit was very high across all varieties.

VINIFICATION

The 2018 vintage contained very few whole bunches. A mix of crushed and destemmed fruit and fully destemmed but un-crushed berries were used. Fermentation was cool and carried out for a notable time on the skins (up to 15 days) however, there was no post-ferment soaking. The wine was fermented in 60% new French barriques and 40% seasoned American oak. Further maturation on lees continued for 30 months with regular battonage.

TASTING NOTES

On the nose, aromas of dark cherry and plum about, followed by a hint of roasted herbs and black olive. The palate is rich and generous with finely tuned tannins providing structure and elegance. This wine finds a lovely balance between acidity and plushness for a long complex finish.

Grape Varieties	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Winemaker	Charles Melton
Closure	Stelvin Lux
ABV	14.5%
Acidity	6.57g/L
Wine pH	3.49
Bottle Sizes	75cl
Notes	Vegetarian, Vegan