

Dandelion Vineyards,
`Pride of the Fleurieu` Cabernet Sauvignon 2021
Fleurieu Peninsula, South Australia, Australia



Grape Varieties	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Winemaker	Elena Brooks
Closure	Screwcap
ABV	14.5%
Acidity	6.8g/L
Wine pH	3.47
Bottle Sizes	75cl
Notes	Vegetarian, Practising Biodynamic, Practising Organic, Vegan

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

With a prime position overlooking the Finniss River wetlands, Stranger's Reach vineyard is cooled by the maritime influence of the Great Southern Ocean and nearby Lake Alexandrina. Deep alluvial soils and low rainfall help the tough Cabernet vines produce rich flavours in the berries.

VINTAGE

Overall the 2021 vintage in McLaren Vale was exceptional. Vineyards in the McLaren Vale were generally more productive, producing higher yields at harvest compared to recent seasons. Most importantly, the increase in vine yields was combined with excellent quality fruit.

VINIFICATION

Selected bunches were hand picked by family and friends and gently crushed into open-top fermenters. After fermentation, the wine was basket pressed into predominately older French oak barriques for ageing, then bottled without filtration or fining.

TASTING NOTES

This Cabernet Sauvignon has a dark purple colour with bright violet edges. On the nose, it has aromas of blueberry, blackberry, raspberry and cassis, with hints of menthol and fennel. The palate is rich, deep and intensely flavoured with blueberry and blackberry. It has round, powdery Cabernet tannins that are softened by smooth, mouth-filling fruit before an extended finish.

AWARDS

Sommelier Wine Awards 2024, Silver