

Peter Lehmann Masters,

`Black Queen` Barossa Valley Sparkling Shiraz 2017

Barossa Valley, South Australia, Australia



Grape Varieties	100% Shiraz
Winemaker	Nigel Westblade and Tim Dolan
Closure	Agglomerated Cork
ABV	14%
Bottle Sizes	75cl

PRODUCER

Peter Lehmann founded his eponymous winery in 1979, partly as a means of helping with the glut of grapes then afflicting the Barossa. "I'll take your grapes and turn them into wine," he told the desperate growers, many of them conservative farmers of Silesian descent who regarded their old vines as part of their patrimony. "But I'll only be able to pay you when I sell the wine." They gratefully accepted. Without this deal, it is widely believed that the Barossa would have lost a large swathe of its old vines. The crisis passed, in large part thanks to Peter's energy and vision, and the Lehmann winery became one of the Barossa's and Australia's most outstanding and historic wineries.

The 'Masters' wines are made from the parcels regarded by the winemakers as the best Semillon, Riesling, Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz of the vintage.

VINEYARDS

Peter Lehmann Wines works with over 140 growers across the length and breadth of the Barossa Valley region, with access to over 750 individual vineyard sites. The Black Queen is made from Shiraz grown on old, low-yielding vines in premium vineyards in the Light Pass and Stonewell districts of the Barossa Valley. These parcels were both chosen for their high fruit concentration and balanced tannin levels, typical characteristics of their districts.

VINTAGE

The 2017 vintage began after a long wet winter. This resulted in wet soils and a cooler than average spring, leading to the vines growing slowly but healthily. March saw the beginning of an 'Indian summer', which was perfect for consistent ripening, colour development and good natural acidity.

VINIFICATION

The grapes were fermented on skins for 7-10 days, before being pressed and clarified. The wine was then aged for 12 months in older French oak hogsheads. The base wine was then bottle-fermented and aged on its yeast lees for four years. After disgorgement, a small percentage of fortified Shiraz was added to build complexity and add natural sweetness before release.

TASTING NOTES

Bright red with a dense black core, this wine has concentrated aromas of plum, blackberry and dark chocolate with a hint of fennel. The palate is quintessentially 'Black Queen', with a gentle mousse, naturally low in tannins, soft and abundant in rich blue fruit flavours and a Christmas cake finish. Best enjoyed now, however, will comfortably develop further in the cellar for a further 10-12 years.