

Charles Melton,

`Grains of Paradise` Barossa Valley Shiraz 2021**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

At Charles Melton, all grapes are dry grown and harvested from the estate's own 50 acres of vineyards as well as from a select group of growers. For the 2021 vintage, much of the fruit for `Grains of Paradise` was sourced from Charlie's vineyard at Rowland Flat, planted in 1927 on clay loam soils. The rest of the fruit is sourced from the `Kirche` vineyard in Krondorf. Most of this vineyard sits on sandy loam and red clay, with the edge on the eastern side heading into the seam of black cracking clay (Bay of Biscay). It is named `Kirche`, German for church, because it surrounds the Zum Krippen Christi Lutheran Church, built in 1864.

VINTAGE

The 2021 vintage came as a blessing following the challenges of the previous two vintages. Rainfall through winter was slightly patchy but regular cooling rain events throughout the summer helped the grapes to refresh after the odd hot day, but the majority of the vintage was quite mild. The harvest saw excellent yields and great bunch weights.

VINIFICATION

To exemplify the classic Barossa Shiraz style, gentle cap management is practised to get full colour and flavour extraction. The wine was then transferred to mainly American oak barriques, of which 15% were new, to age on the lees for 28 months. No fining or filtration was carried out prior to bottling.

TASTING NOTES

This wine is rich and deeply coloured. The nose is brimming with juicy sweet plum, red cherries and an underlay of fragrant herbs. The palate is expressive and generous with meaty notes and plush tannins which carry through to the long and elegant finish.

Grape Varieties	100% Shiraz
Winemaker	Charlie Melton
Closure	Stelvin Lux
ABV	14.5%
Residual Sugar	0.5g/L
Acidity	6.95g/L
Wine pH	3.27
Notes	Vegetarian, Vegan