

Charles Melton,

Barossa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 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

This wine was sourced from two vineyard sites in the Barossa Valley. The Kirche Block in Krondorf surrounds the historic Zum Krippen Christi Lutheran Church and is planted to Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz on sandy loam over red clay, with sections of black cracking clay, producing structured, high-quality fruit. The Liebig Block in Rowland Flat is a historic vineyard originally planted in 1927, featuring old bush vines of Grenache, Shiraz and Cabernet growing in friable gradational clay loam soils, contributing depth and balance to the blend.

VINTAGE

The 2021 vintage was a welcome return to form after the challenges of 2019 and 2020. Winter rainfall was uneven but reached near-average levels by Christmas, with timely rain events in the New Year refreshing the vineyards. The harvest period was generally mild, with only occasional hot days, allowing steady ripening. Good bunch numbers and weights delivered excellent fruit quality, ideal for ultra-premium wines.

VINIFICATION

Vinification followed an almost traditional approach, with little to no whole-bunch inclusion. A combination of crushed and destemmed fruit and fully destemmed, uncrushed berries was fermented on skins for up to 15 days at cooler temperatures, without post-fermentation maceration. The wine was run directly into 100% new French oak barriques, where it underwent an extended 29-month sur lie maturation with regular bâtonnage.

TASTING NOTES

The wine displays classic Cabernet notes of blackcurrant and tea leaf, complemented by fine cedar from French oak. The palate is polished and seamless, with no hard edges, showing excellent balance between weight and richness. Already complex, it promises to develop further depth and nuance with time.

Grape Varieties	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Winemaker	Charles and Sophie Melton
Closure	Screwcap
ABV	14.5%
Acidity	7.09g/L
Wine pH	3.37
Bottle Sizes	75cl
Notes	Vegetarian, Vegan