

OLD SALEM

Variety: Shiraz

Vintage: 2019

Region: Barossa, South Australia

Alcohol: 14.5%

The Old Salem Barossa Shiraz takes its name from the Old Salem Lutheran Church, which was built with humble claystone in 1856. The church was destroyed in the flood of 1946, but it lives on in the memorial stone laid in our neighbouring vineyard and in the grapes harvested from it, which are incorporated with carefully selected premium grapes from other longstanding Barossa family growers to create this distinctive Barossa Shiraz.

Winemaking

The individual parcels of fruit are vinified in small stainless steel fermenters with gentle extraction of tannins, then aged in new and second-use French oak hogsheads for 18 months.

Tasting notes

A bright nose of plum and blackcurrant with fresh spice. The palate holds flavours of dark berries and dark chocolate. New and seasoned French oak provides balance and support to the intensity of fruit.

Vintage 2019

The 2019 growing season was a challenging one for the Barossa Valley. Lower than average rainfall was experienced across the year. Winter rain was 77% of the long-term average, spring 24% of average and summer just 31%. The region also experienced significant frost events in September and November, as well as a hailstorm later in November. January heat gave way to a cooler February and March, which provided ideal conditions for the small crops to ripen evenly and quickly. In spite of the significant challenges of the season, fruit quality was exceptional. Flavour and phenological development was synchronous with sugar ripening, allowing harvest for most vineyards by the end of March, one of the earliest finishes on record. Shiraz wines produced from the exceptional fruit of 2019 exhibit great depth of colour, with intense, concentrated varietal fruit flavours and firm, structural tannins which will mellow and soften with careful cellaring.

