

2021 Kershaw Clonal Selection Elgin Syrah

VARIETAL INFORMATION: 100% Syrah made up of clones SH9c & SH22.

WINE OF ORIGIN: Elgin, Western Cape, South Africa.

TOTAL VINEYARD PRODUCTION: Selected from 5 parcels of Syrah.

HISTORY: In 2012, owner Richard Kershaw MW, established Kershaw Wines to create clonally selected, site-specific, cool climate wine paradigms from apposite noble grapes i.e. ones with the ability to produce world-class examples. SA's coolest wine district, Elgin Valley, reflected these principles benefitting from higher altitude, ocean proximity, specific cloud cover sequencing, high cold units and a large diurnal range, enabling the germane grapes, Chardonnay, Syrah and Pinot Noir, to show a sense of place.

VINTAGE: Hand-Picking Dates: 31st March - 6th April 2021
Brix at Harvest: 20.5 - 25.8

SEASON: 2021 was an outstanding vintage that was cooler and later than the ten-year average. During the post-harvest period of 2020, there were reasonable water reserves in the soil and this allowed the vines to have a successful build-up of reserves as we headed into winter. Fortunately, winter rainfall was significantly higher than the previous season. Budding occurred in late August. A cool early Spring with wetter conditions kept the soils cool, delaying the growth of immature shoots by up to 3 weeks. Flowering and fruit set were characterised by continuous cool conditions with frequent rain showers. Veraison occurred 2-3 weeks later than average, giving a much longer hangtime than normal, and harvesting began in late March and went into early April. The wines themselves have a fabulous pH with high acidity and perfumed flavour profiles; alcohols are somewhat lower than average, in fact, the lowest since I began making wine.

WINEMAKING: Grapes were hand-picked in the early autumnal mornings, placed into small lug baskets and tipped directly into a press before being gently whole-bunch pressed up to a maximum of 0.6 bar or until a low juice recovery of 620 litres per ton was obtained using our Willmes Sigma 5 press. The juice gravity-flowed directly to barrel without settling. The unclarified juice had no enzymes or yeast added to it and therefore underwent spontaneous fermentation until dry, with malolactic discouraged. The wine rested in barrel for four months before judicious sulphuring and a further seven months' maturation in barrel before racking, blending and bottling.

BARREL SELECTION: A small number of artisanal coopers were selected from Burgundy and Rhone, with only French oak chosen. Importantly, each clone and soil type are micro-vinified as separate batches. Overall, the average in 2021 was 40% new oak matured in 6 barriques, 1 Puncheon and the rest in breathable eggs.

ALCOHOL: 12.74% | **RS:** 1.9 g/l | **TA:** 5.4 g/l | **pH:** 3.52 | **TOTAL PRODUCTION:** 3770 bottles

TASTING PROFILE: This wine opens with intense dark plum, pine forest, Indian pepper tree, chocolate and fynbos spice with a crushed rock edge. Medium-bodied, the entry is alive with vibrant, pinpoint-bright acidity, giving the wine a firm spine and fantastic freshness and purity in this Pinot-style Syrah! Complex flavours start with dark cherry, liquorice, and ripe black plum, then morph into pine nuts, button mushroom, dark chocolate and peat. Richly textured and concentrated, the mid-palate has a sultry quality that exudes finesse, whilst the tannins have a firm, mineral-charged tension that drives them forward.



Kershaw

WINES OF ELGIN

