

CHARLES MELTON

FINE BAROSSA RED WINES



2019 The Kirche (Shiraz & Cabernet)

VINTAGE

In a word, dry! Not particularly hot but just simply no or very little rain in the lead up winter, spring, summer, and the harvest autumn. Crop levels came in at around 60% below the 2018 crop (itself on the low side) and probably close to 70% below average. Getting all fruit off at optimal ripeness levels, fresh in the case of rosé fruit and not overripe in the case of the reds.

STYLE

The blend of 60% Shiraz & 40% Cabernet illustrates the qualities of both varieties. Lovely deep colour, with excellent bright hue. Black fruits on the nose, blackberry with a touch of cedary, gently smoky oak. Plush creamy structure with some lovely round tannins and great length mouth filling, but fine and elegant.

VINIFICATION

100% estate grown Shiraz and Cabernet, principally from the Kirche vineyard in Krondorf Village, gives the 2019 Kirche its distinctive aromatics and flavour. Both varieties from this block perform consistently at the top end of the quality spectrum. The blend is a mix of co-fermented Shiraz and Cabernet and single varietal ferments that are blended post oak maturation. As always, a mix of French oak (50%) and American oak (50%) are used to mature the wine. A touch (50%) of new oak adds a fine cedar element to the bouquet, and the 30 month "sur lie" maturation gives a natural richness to the structure. A cool (18 – 23 c) ferment has helped give an elegance to the fruit perfumes.

TECHNICAL

Shiraz 60%	Alc: 14.5%
Cabernet 40%	T.A: 6.2 g/L
	pH: 3.4

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WINEMAKER