

CHARLES MELTON

FINE BAROSSA RED WINES



2019 LA BELLE MÈRE GSR

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

As with all the 2019 reds, the perfumes strike a note upon first taste. Some are red fruited, with a balancing touch of spice, as is the case with the La Belle Mere with a touch of darker sweetness. The palate weight and sweetness form the core of the structure with a lovely long amalgam of garrigue and grenache sweetness to finish the wine.

VINIFICATION

Almost exclusively estate grown vines from our Krondorf and Rowland Flat blocks contribute the grapes for the 2019 La Belle Mere. A small percentage of the ferment underwent whole bunch fermentation with the wine being pressed into oak post ferment to mature on lees with regular battonage for 28 months. A mix of 75% French oak barriques and 25% American was used with 50% new oak. The wine was naturally settled prior to bottling without finings.

TECHNICAL

Grenache 68%	Alc: 14.5%
Shiraz 25 %	TA: 6.3
Riesling 7 %	pH: 3.3

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WINEMAKER