

# CHARLES MELTON

FINE BAROSSA RED WINES



## 2018 NINE POPES GSM

### VINTAGE

So little rain, but so much flavour!! The lack of any real spring rain has resulted in the crop levels similar to 2016 some 30-40% below seasonal averages. But the upside is the intensity of fruit spectrum across all varieties including our favoured Grenache.

### STYLE

Vintage 2018 provided almost ideal conditions for all the three varieties that make up the Nine Popes. The Grenache was fully fragrant. The Shiraz balanced but rich and the Mataro had a small berried explosion of spice in each bunch. The characteristic musk of Grenache is evident at this stage, and will increase with age, alongside the dark plums of the Shiraz and the spicy/herb of Mataro. A rich perfumed savoury GSM of weight and depth.

### VINIFICATION

Dry farmed, old vine bush Grenache, forms the core of the 2018 Nine Popes. The fruit is co-fermented with Shiraz mostly, but with some single varietal tanks as well. A mix of whole bunch, destemmed and uncrushed fruit along with a small batch of carbonic maceration Grenache, is fermented cool and given gentle cap management, including hand plunging before being pressed to barrique (mostly French) and undergoing malolactic in oak. The wine spends its customary 24-27 months on lees before settling and bottling.

### TECHNICAL

Grenache 51%	Alc: 14.5%
Shiraz 47%	TA: 6.28g/L
Mourvèdre 2%	pH: 3.4

### CHARLIE MELTON WINEMAKER