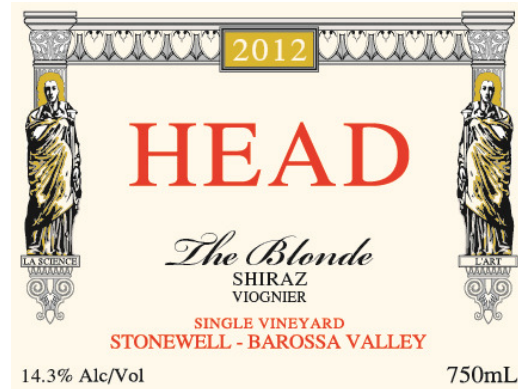


HEAD WINES *of the Barossa Valley*

2012 'The Blonde' Shiraz Viognier Stone Well Barossa Valley



From a remarkable single vineyard in the Stone Well sub-region containing a myriad of soil types including red-clays and grey sands (Blonde in colour). Always showing perfume and jube-like blue fruits and cropping naturally at around 1.5 tonne to the acre. This wine also utilises two separate clones of Shiraz which adds another layer of complexity to the wine.

3% Viognier skins included in the ferment for aroma, to soften tannin, set colour, add texture, freshness and more complexity with bottle age. A big year for whole bunches with 40% retention during fermentation over 2 weeks with daily foot-treading, hand-plunging and pump-overs. After a year in oak the final selection contained only the use of 500L barrels of which 50% were new (normally only around 30%).

Distinctly peppery and stalky, vanilla and floral perfume, chocolate and black fruit – like a serious furrowed brow Pinot Noir! Medium to full bodied, pretty firm and tense in the mouth, not so slippery and seductive as previous releases; the blonde has gone all librarian on us and means business. But let's get down to business! Chocolate, vanilla and stalk with firm tannin on a long finish. Interesting. I like it. Stamp my card. 95 Points Gary Walsh – Winefront.

95 Points Huon Hooke – HuonHooke.com

Gold Medal & Trophy for Best Small Producer – Barossa Wine Show