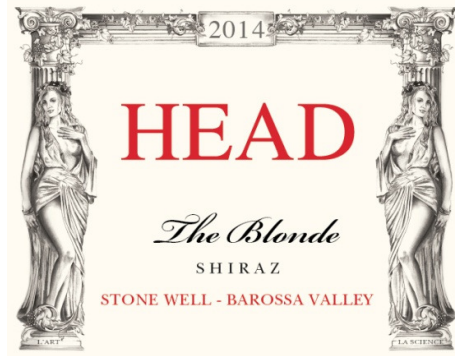


HEAD WINES of the Barossa Valley

2014 HEAD 'The Blonde' Shiraz Stone Well



Head Wines draws from 15 top Shiraz vineyards in the Barossa and Eden Valleys. The Blonde vineyard is consistently in the top two performing vineyards each year and has done so for 10 years.

The Shiraz (Clone 1654) vineyard is planted in the 'Stone Well' parish on a small rise (280m) below the Western Ridge of the Barossa Valley containing a myriad of soil/rock types including red clays, sands and a deep limestone base (Blonde in colour). It is these unique rocks/soils that help produce riper, plumper, sweeter fruited wine than surrounding vineyards, while still retaining acidity due to the higher limestone content of the soil.

Hand-picked on the 3rd of March (Ave. 5th March) and completely de-stemmed before a two week wild yeast fermentation. This is the first year where Viognier skins were not utilised in the ferment or final blend. Hand plunging twice daily in small open top fermenters for the first two weeks and then matured for one year in French 300L hogsheads of which one third were new.

James Halliday – Halliday Wine Magazine, 96 Points.

No Viognier in it this year. Hurrah! From the Stone Well sub-region, noting well the space. It's a wine that should appeal to all comers. It's pretty, floral and milk chocolatey, vanilla dusted plums and the like, but also has an unusual degree of sophistication and style that's not often found in Barossa Shiraz of such seduction. Fine grained chocolatey tannin, even acidity keeps it fresh and lively, then it tightens up on the finish with graphite tannin and farewells with a perfumed berry sweetness with a twist of dried herb.

Gary Walsh – Wine Front, 95 Pts.

Deep, dark purple colour; intense dark berry nose, quite oaky as well. Black fruits and dark chocolate. The palate is drying and savoury, thanks in part to liberal use of oak, which also adds a touch of bitterness to the palate. The aftertaste is oaky and grippy, firm and long. It needs more time. A more savoury wine than the Brunette. **Huon Hooke, 94 Pts, #2 of 36 Tasted from the 2014 vintage.**