



**Production:**

Shiraz  
Picked during the month  
of February and March  
2008,  
Cabernet Sauvignon  
Picked in March 2008  
Total production 2400  
bottles  
192 Bottles Re-Released  
November 2017

**Colour:**

Deep dense red with  
hints of purple  
lingering around the  
meniscus.

**Nose:**

spearmint perfume  
layered over cassia and  
redcurrant and summer  
berries. lifted vanilla  
oak blends back and is  
filled out with the  
complexity of the spicy  
French giving an  
beautifully balanced  
nose.

**Palate:**

The initial richness of  
the fully raspberry  
characters are poised  
against the spearmint  
menthol over finely  
balanced against firm  
oak and fruit Tannins.  
Good acid against the  
fruit sweetness,  
cleanses the mouth for a  
beautifully balanced  
palate The middle palate  
is full of the of the  
big berry hit of  
Cabernet supported by  
the leathery richness of  
Shiraz. The long palate  
finishes with the deep  
bass complexity brought  
out by extended lees  
contact.

Alex, eight  
years old and my youngest has  
always been a study in  
contrasts. From his earliest  
days of childhood, you were  
never quite sure what the  
day was going to bring. His  
temperament is the open sea -  
calm and peaceful one minute  
then storm tossed and  
irresistible the next. At his core

is a nonnegotiable moral code that brooks no compromise and definitely leads to our heads banging together at times. Luckily this is tempered by his rich sense of humour, quick witted manner and keen insight. He is in equal measures, generous hearted and loving yet still has moments of such breath-taking selfishness that you'd happily throttle him for a buck. But kids eh. What are you going to do except love them? But I have to admit that his mercurial nature - thankfully - is slowly being tempered by reality. Our peace negotiations based on his transgressions are no longer a combination of common assault, attempted patricide and time in the hole. Happily, it is now a much more dignified affair where for me at least nursing my meat and two veg with a bag of frozen peas is a thing of the past. One day I hope that my kids may want to follow me into the world of wine I guess anyone in my position would probably feel the same. If Alex comes on board at some time in the future I know for sure - based on history - that it will NEVER be dull!

The 2008 Cellar Release Alexander's Reward is a full-throated celebration of the iconic Australian Blend of Cabernet and Shiraz. This blend is unashamedly Big - Big Fruit, Big Oak and Massive Flavour. The 2008 vintage started perfectly giving rise to some of the best fruit I'd seen to date. Then, about half way through, all hell broke loose when it got hot - DAMN HOT!!! Perhaps this is cosmic irony, but I'd have to say it's not unlike a day with Alex actually. Baume's shot up as the heat basically started to air dry the fruit on the vines. In Italy they do this deliberately producing the amazing 'Amarone' Style wines from partially dried fruit - but for us it was an unavoidable reality we just had to take in our stride. Adversity can either break you or if you dig deep can lift you beyond even your own expectations. As the conditions reached 'extreme', vintage became a blur of picking - chilling - plunging - repeat. We filled anything we could get our hands on to make space for grapes. As the race to redemption entered the home straight lack of sleep fought with necessity but in the end, it was all done. I can still feel the relief as we pressed the last parcel, filled the last barrel and cracked just one last beer. Yep, I was pretty damn happy it was over but even happier with the result. The truth of Terroir is not just the soil and the vines but the vintage and the maker as well. Every one of the 384 bottles of the 2008 Cellar Release Alexanders Reward proudly displays the 25 plus days on skins, intense hand crafting and 40 months in oak. The 75% Cabernet and 25% Shiraz is a match made in MY heaven and of course Team David Franz have as always finished the bottle with the hand printed love we would never let it leave home without.

Alexander's Reward  
2008  
Cabernet  
Sauvignon 75%  
Shiraz 25%

- Cellar Release -

