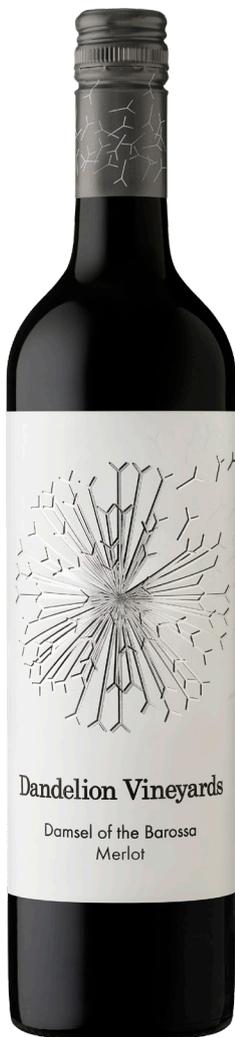


Damsel of the Barossa Merlot 2017

Dandelion Vineyards
wish you were here...

Dandelion's Damsel is always our best old vine Barossa Merlot



Background

Dandelion Vineyards is a unique fusion of vineyards and vigneron. Our wines represent decades of experience, blending the fruit of our old vine gardens with the finest traditions of artisan winemaking.

Dandelion Vineyards are proven plantings that have stood the test of time. Our wish is to nurture the unique character of these vineyards and express their terroir in our wines.

Capturing variety, vintage and vineyard requires an enlightened approach and although our growers see the Devil in every weed, we encourage the humble Dandelion amongst the vines as they suppress winter weeds, provide mulch in summer, and proffer their Wishing Clocks in spring to blow off to make our wish come true.

Sourced from our old vine Barossa vineyard, these ancient, gnarled vines are not only surviving but thriving on their own roots in some of the oldest soils on the planet.

In March we hand harvested whole bunches of flavour ripe Merlot to be gently crushed and naturally fermented in open fermenters for eight days, hand plunged twice a day, before careful basket pressing into older French and American Oak Barriques to finish fermentation.

After 18 months maturation and a racking in the same oak, we bottled without filtration or fining to capture the essence of the vineyard and although ready to drink this Damsel will reward cellaring and decanting.

Tasting Notes

Colour

Brightly opaque with flashes of dark violet and ruby. A leggy viscosity.

Nose

A compote of wild berries and then bursting blueberries and sweet cassis that's been freshly bottled. Alive aromatics complete with the best Merlot fruit reminiscent of a high acid blueberry jam. The aroma leads and the bouquet faintly hints at the vaguest waft of spice from older oak barrels.

Palate

A flooding mouthful of wine that sweeps all before it. Fruit acid and tannin combine to make a merlot AWD 4WD. The Damson plum and blueberry and blackberry flavours drive the wine and give it a perfect weight. This is Merlot that sings and shines, but a clear acid and tannin backbone keeps it on the road. The after-palate is long and brings with it whispers of dry dark chocolate.

Drink

With its plushness of fruit and it's deft acid/tannin framework this red wine tames charcoal grilled meats in the most charming and friendly manner - try Rack of Lamb cut into double chops. It's affable fruit flavours also suit it to slightly spicy Szechuan dishes.

Composition: 100% Merlot

Alcohol: 14.5%

Wish you were here...

Zar Brooks, *Typist & tba,*

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