

Tscharke

Matching Socks

Touriga Nacional 2020



VINTAGE REPORT

The wines of 2020 vintage are proving to be of exceptional quality, despite the challenging growing season and very low yields.

Winter rainfall was below average but a warm start to spring gave rise to even budburst and minimal frost events. The growing season was hampered by unseasonably high winds that delivered the biggest blow to the season, at flowering. Dry conditions, extremely high temperatures coupled with the strong winds destroyed up to 70% of flowers in some vineyards; Shiraz the worst affected.

The ripening conditions were ideal, moderate temperatures and minimal rain provided very low risk to disease pressures. Supplementary irrigation was critical in nurturing the health of the vineyards and encouraging favourable fruit ripening.

The general quality of wines from 2020 has proven great to exceptional; rich in flavour, strong colour and ripe tannins. Many of the wines formed balance early during fermentation and those well-structured will age well. Standouts varieties include Grenache, Grenache Blanc, Shiraz and Montepulciano.

VINEYARD

The Touriga vineyard is located on our Greenock Creek Estate.

Planted in 2008, this is the Nacional selection [as opposed to Francesa]. The vineyard has a gentle sloping westerly aspect. The moderately rich loamy alluvial soils of the vineyard facilitate the late ripening variety.

WINEMAKING

This vintage we decided to hand pick 10% of the fruit to experiment with whole cluster fermentation. The remaining 90%, machine picked, was destemmed and crushed on top of the whole bunches in a potter fermenter. Inoculated and fermented at 16-19°C for 9 days under a CO2 cover with the lid sitting flat, with only a quick daily pump-over under dry ice to wet the cap. The whole bunches were never stomped so to get both the savoury characters from the stalks and the "sweeter" ones from a full carbonic maceration (intra-berry fermentation). Once dry it was pressed to a tank where it rested on gross lees for 3 weeks prior filtration and bottling.

TASTING NOTES

Semi-transparent crimson red with a purple rim. This wine is inspired by the floral, crunchy and vibrant wines of Beaujolais: extremely aromatic with tones of fresh violets, purple fruit and candies. The time on stalks and on lees helped putting just enough freckles on the prettiest face.

The palate is zingy with a good but non-invasive structure: light bodied, aroma-forward and extremely drinkable with very soft and savoury tannins. This wine evolves in the glass as you drink it and you can literally pair it with anything but sweet.

Vintage	2020
Vineyard	Greenock Creek
Variety	100% Touriga
Alcohol	11% ABV
pH	3.63
Titrateable Acidity	5.94 g/L