



2020 Gnadenfrei Red I

Grenache Shiraz Mourvèdre

Gnadenfrei South represents the resilience of nature that evolves slow, steady and unstoppable through generations of custodians. The Tscharke family have looked after this plot of land for the past century, establishing the first vineyard. Nature is going to manifest itself through these vines, long after we are gone and the gate we built has turned into ruins.



VINEYARD

Gnadenfrei South is planted to three vineyards that make up the blend of Gnadenfrei Red I. It's a single site blend and echoes the unique terroir of this old, weathered site.

The entire vineyard is easterly facing. The vines are planted across the ridge with a terracing effect. The top section is planted to Grenache, the soils are very shallow and extremely permeable due to the nature of deep gravelly quartz. Through the middle of the hill, Shiraz is planted. The vigour is moderate, a result of shallow topsoils over deep red clay. The bottom of the vineyard has a small planting of Mourvèdre. There the topsoils bear a deep, rich loam, ideal for a longer vegetative cycle. This enables flavour and tannin ripeness late into the growing season.

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.



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WINEMAKING

Shiraz was picked on the 20th of March, then partly crushed into a concrete fermenter on top of whole bunches totalling 20% of the volume. It was then inoculated and left to warm up to 30°C before chilling it. The whole clusters were foot stomped early to benefit from the stalks without adding too much fruit sweetness from the intra-berry fermentation. Cap was managed by hand regularly. Once dry the free run wine was drained to a separate tank from the pressings (bag-pressed). After MLF was completed the two wines were racked to the cellar into terracotta and concrete vessels.

Grenache and Mourvèdre were hand-picked on the 26th of March and were destemmed and crushed to a single concrete fermenter on top of some of their own stalks. After inoculation the ferment was allowed to reach hot temperatures for higher extraction. The cap was managed exclusively by hand twice daily. Once dry the wine was pressed to tank to finish MLF and then lightly racked to a second use French foudre. After 3 months the blend was carefully put together utilising the Shiraz components for structure and fragrance.

The final blend is 43% Grenache, 42% Shiraz, 15% Mourvèdre. It underwent a further 11 months of élevage in foudre and terracotta amphorae before the wine was bottled unfiltered.

14.9% ABV - PH 3.41 – TA 7.1 g/l

TASTING NOTES

Best decanted and served in a large glass.

You can't help but feel an aura about this wine, it's brimming with energy emulating a liveliness that draws one to it. Deep crimson colour. The bouquet is comprised of the most complex characters: dried herbs and spices, subtle pepper and clove. All surrounded by an intense chocolate, toasted aroma that adds a captivating bitter-sweet sensation. The fruit is dark and ripe, complemented by a subtle floral tone.

The palate is simultaneously brooding and bright. It opens up quickly on the front palate showing incredible liveliness and generosity before diving into the dark and toasted layers of the finish. The fruit weight and sweetness perfectly counterweight its savoury nature. A wine of infinite layers, texture and balance.

*This blend is destined to age and develop in the bottle for decades.
A timeless expression of the terroir from which it originates.*

