

Tscharke

Cabernet
Sauvignon 2018
Stone Well Vineyard



VINTAGE REPORT

The 2018 growing season had a reasonable start with adequate rainfall through winter and early spring. Healthy canopies were established across all sites and the dry and warm conditions of late January and February kept weeds and disease pressures to a low. February proved to be a very warm month which stalled ripening and it wasn't until the relief of a mild March that the outlook for a great harvest looked imminent.

2018 came off the back of two big vintages so it was no surprise this harvest was likely to be down on average with most crops down by 20-25%. The wines produced were very balanced, had ripe phenolics and display vibrant mid palate weight, a spectacular vintage for good structure and elegance.

VINEYARD

The modest Cabernet Sauvignon site was planted on our Stone Well property in 2001. Trained onto a single cordon wire, the rows run East-West, aiding in protecting the fruiting zone from the late afternoon sun in summer. The North Westerly facing aspect has moderately deep red/brown clay soils with underlying calcareous chalk. The late ripening vineyard is well suited to these soils, retaining fresh canopies by harvest that deliver well balanced fruit unharmed by excessive heat exposure.

WINEMAKING

The fruit is harvested at night, completely destemmed and crushed to an open top fermenter. The must is inoculated and allowed to ferment between 22-25 ° C. The cap is managed by twice-daily hand plunging. Once dry the wine is gently pressed to 30% new French oak (barriques and hogsheads) with the balance in seasoned French oak for 19 months *élevage*.

TASTING NOTES

On the nose the wine displays a complex blend of primary and secondary aromas: the dark mocha and cassis notes give way to fresher minty and herbaceous layers typical of the varietal; spicy hints of French oak subtly coming through. On the palate this Cab Sauv shows great freshness and juiciness that keep it very approachable while young, but at the same time a firm and serious structure that is going to carry the wine over the next decade for those with the patience to cellar it.

Vintage	2018
Vineyard	Stone Well
Variety	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Alcohol	14.5%
pH	3.71
Titrateable Acidity	6.50 g/L