



# 2017 Villain & Vixen Shiraz

Old school winemaking has it that big is best - not so, we say, as villains against convention we favour Vixen-like elegance with soft silky tannins, bright fruit, great balance and rich, complex flavours.



## VINEYARD

Taken predominately from three separate Barossa valley sites; an eastern Barossa site in the foothills of the Barossa ranges/ Eden Valley, a Krondorf block at the base of Rifle-Range Road and a parcel on the Western ridge. All sites have red earth, a VSP trellis and North-West row orientation.

## VINTAGE

The 2016 calendar year leading up to the 2017 vintage produced the wettest winter for 20 years! This rainfall and associated cooler weather conditions resulted in a delightful slow development across the growing season with flowering and subsequent fruit set 2-3 weeks later than recent vintages. Warm and consistent conditions followed with vines balanced and happy heading towards Christmas. A return to cool weather and rainfall continued the trend of slow development with veraison kicking off 4 weeks later than expected. After one last summer drop of 50mm in early February we got the weather we were **looking** for with dry conditions and good ripening throughout harvest. The vintage conditions have created outstanding flavour development and natural acidity with the resulting wines showing great poise and balance.

## WINEMAKING

A variety of techniques were employed to achieve the desired wine style. 10% was directly tipped to open top fermenters and fermented as whole bunches. 20% was destemmed and left on skins for 40-50 days and the balance was treated traditionally with the fruit destemmed and fermented on skins for 8-12 days before pressing. Once pressed all parcels were settled for 24hrs then racked to oak for malolactic fermentation. The wine was blended in January 2018, a total of ten months maturation in seasoned French (80%) and American (20%) oak. No fining or filtration was used in the production of this wine.

## PROFILE

Red fruit leads the way here with red cherry and satsuma plum and an almost sherbet-like lift that combines with green peppercorn and sage. That palate is soft and silky throughout providing outstanding purity of fruit and balance.

ANALYSIS		VINEYARD	
Alcohol	14.5%	100% Shiraz	
Acid	6.5		
pH	3.55		
DRINK		BOTTLED	
Now to 2027		May 2018	