

2020 Command Shiraz

History

The second generation of Ashmead family, and Elderton Co-Managing Directors, Allister and Cameron, as the current custodians of a rare piece of Barossa Valley viticultural heritage, continue their parents' aspirations and expectations to produce a great wine of the world. The Command is truly an expression of place, and one of which the family intends to preserve for generations to come.

The Elderton Command Shiraz has established an enviable reputation since the first vintage in 1984. It is often regarded as one of Australia's best and most highly acclaimed wines. Accolades have come from writers and competitions around the world. The 1996 Command won the trophy for the Best Shiraz in the World at the London International Wine and Spirit Competition.

Vineyard Information

Estate grown on the Nuriootpa vineyard, the fruit is sourced from a single block planted in 1894, classed as an Ancestor vineyard by the Barossa Old Vine Charter.

Vineyard Source 100% Estate grown, Nuriootpa

Vine Age 126 years

Picking date 13 - 18 March 2020

Winemakers' Comments

Our Command from 2020 is a wine to savour. Whilst we could say that about every Command, in 2020 we had a tiny harvest, on the back of a frost year in 2019. Fortunately, after tricky weather at flowering, we didn't need to contend with frost also for 2020. With such small volumes, the 2020 Command is a story about intense concentration and depth of flavour.

From the vineyard, we could see the intensity of fruit we had to work with for our release of Command. Spanning from the North Para River on the western side of our Command vineyard to Cellar Door at the eastern end, we see a gradual increase in clay content which corresponds with a decrease in vigour over the vineyard. For this reason we harvest the Command fruit in a couple of picks, aiming to achieve the perfect balance in each pick.

Destemmed fruit was fermented in open cement vats for 7-14 days. Post-pressing, the new Command was transferred to a combination of new French and American oak from coopers we know and trust. The wine went through malolactic fermentation and further maturation, allowing the powerful fruit to come together with the long and savoury edged tannin profile.

- Jules Ashmead & Brock Harrison



Style	Bold, structured, rich, powerful and elegant
Colour	Deep crimson
Aroma	Brooding fruit with hints of roasted coffee bean
Palate	Spiced plums with cloves and a lovely blackforest note. Bold yet restrained layers of tannin carry the fruit to a long and seamless finish laced with the power of fruit.
Oak	24 months in new French and American oak puncheons
Cellaring	Drink now or cellar confidently for 15 - 20 years from vintage
Alc/vol	14.8%

