

CHARLES MELTON

2021 Nine Popes



VINTAGE

A blessing after the vicissitudes of 2019 and 2020. Winter rainfall a bit patchy, but overall approached average by around Christmas a couple of nice rain events in the New Year to freshen up after the odd hot day, but generally a mild harvest period to the end. Good bunch number and bunch weights for ultra-premium wines.

STYLE

Mid to deepish crimson, not black but excellent settled hue. Intensely but gently fragrant bouquet, sweet musk, mixed with some pomegranate along with a touch of cedar oak. A superbly sweet, plush entry into the mouth with tongue coating glycerol smoothness and just a hint of spicy savoury tannin to finish. The perfumes and palate will expand with more years in the bottle.

VINIFICATION

Dry farmed, old vine bush Grenache, forms the core of the 2021 Nine Popes. The fruit is co-fermented with Shiraz mostly, but with some single varietal tanks as well. A mix of whole bunch, destemmed and uncrushed fruit along with a small batch of carbonic maceration Grenache, is fermented cool and given gentle cap management, including hand plunging before being pressed to barrique (mostly French) and undergoing malolactic in oak. The wine spent its customary 28 months on lees before settling and bottling.

TECHNICAL

Alc: 14.5%
pH: 3.4
TA: 6.5g/L

CHARLIE & SOPHIE MELTON
WINEMAKERS