

CHARLES MELTON

2022 Nine Popes



VINTAGE

A return towards yield normalcy, but not quite there yet, with 2022 vintage in the Barossa being around 20% down from average. Personally, we fared a little better, but from a winemaking point of view, never mind the width, feel the quality!! Superbly spaced rain events, all continuing through Spring, with nary a hint of heat. Bright sunny, yet mild days presented one of the most balanced and unhurried vintages for some time.

STYLE

Settled, bright mid garnet colour. Initial bouquet is still some musky Grenache but a stronger, darker black fruit liquorice/anise scent with some new cedar oak noted mixed in. Still sweetly scented but a more muscular aromatic. A lovely plush entry into the mouth. A rich, smoothly composed palate, with real mid palate sweetness and again, long spicy/sweet anise flavours combined with finely toned tannins.

VINIFICATION

Dry farmed, old vine bush Grenache, forms the core of the 2022 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: 3.25
TA: 7.0g/L

CHARLIE & SOPHIE MELTON
WINEMAKERS