



2018 Command Shiraz

History

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 the world over for vintages such as the 1992, which was chosen by the influential wine critic Robert Parker in his U.S. magazine the *Wine Advocate* as one of the world's Top 80 wines. The 1995 Command was awarded 95 points by *Wine Spectator* and placed in their Top 100 wines; the 2000 was awarded 97 points by the same magazine and placed 27 in their Top 100. The 1996 Command won the trophy for the Best Shiraz in the World at the London International Wine and Spirit Competition.

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.

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.

Winemakers' Comments

The winter preceding the 2018 vintage delivered sufficient rainfall to set up the vines for a healthy growing season. There was very little rain to interfere with ripening and this also allowed us to make all picking decisions based purely on fruit profile. From the river we see a gradual increase in clay content across the rows which corresponds with a decrease in vigour over the block. For this reason we harvest the block in several batches aiming to achieve the perfect balance in each batch. We harvested the 2018 Command Shiraz over three weeks from 7 - 22 March, bringing a little fruit in earlier with a tight acid line and the last fruit to come in with a deeper, more plush palate weight to balance.

We used a combination of heading boards and standard open fermentation combined with a small amount of barrel fermentation to create the Command blend. Post pressing our Command batches were transferred to a combination of new French and American oak from coopers we know and trust. Here the wine went through malolactic fermentation and further ageing to allow the powerful fruit to come together with the tannin profile present in the fruit and oak.

- Jules Ashmead & Brock Harrison

Style	Rich, powerful and elegant
Colour	Deep crimson
Aroma	Lifted red fruits and plummy depth with hints of spicy oak
Palate	Rich and attractive spicy fresh ripe berries, supported by silky tannins that together provide a focused structure, and a powerful yet elegant finish flush with fruit to balance the tannins
Cellaring	Drink now or cellar confidently for 15 - 20 years



Command Shiraz 2018

Vineyard Source 100% Estate Grown, Nuriootpa

Vine Age 124 years

Picking date 7 - 22 March 2018

Oak 30 months in new French and American puncheons

Alc/Vol 14.6%