



JOHN DUVAL ANNEXUS MATARO 2018

Attached, linked or joined to; highlighting exceptional elements of Plexus

Background:

First planted in Barossa in the 1850's, the region is today a rich source of old vine Mataro, including the oldest known vineyards in the world. Our relationships with local grape growing families provide privileged access to many exceptional old Mataro vineyards from which we produce wine for our Plexus Red blend. Encouraged by the response to our initial bottlings of small parcels of Grenache under the *Annexus* label, we extended the idea of presenting the best of the varietal components of Plexus to Mataro with the first release from the highly praised 2016 vintage.

2018 Vintage:

Following the pattern of recent years, the preceding winter rainfalls were above average followed by slightly drier conditions through spring. Warmer than average conditions through October and November promoted healthy canopies, good flowering and a healthy set of bunches. Very dry conditions through summer challenged growers to maintain good vineyard health, and they were rewarded with perfect ripening and harvest conditions throughout March and early April.

Mataro was sourced from a single dry grown centenarian vineyard in the Light Pass subdistrict of the Barossa Valley. Growing in sandy soils near the banks of the North Para River, this vineyard produces exceptionally low yields of intensely flavoured and firmly structured fruit. The fruit was fermented in small open top stainless-steel fermenters with twice daily pump overs for 8 days, before maturation for 15 months in fine-grained French oak (30% in a new 500 litre puncheon, the balance in seasoned hogsheads).

Winemakers' notes:

Nose: Deep dark fruits, hints of rose and violet and smoky earth.

Palate: Intense layers of black plum, blackberry and blueberry supported by well-defined toothsome tannins, finishing long and clean with pleasing savouriness.

Technical Analysis:

Alc: 14.5% pH: 3.51 TA: 6.40 g/L

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