

JACK WEST

2020 Jack West Barossa Valley Grenache Shiraz Mataro

The newest release from elusive and enigmatic winemaker and grapegrower Jack West. Sourced from vines planted in the rich red soils of the Lienert Vineyards, where the fruit ripens lazily under the big blue skies of the Barossa's western ridge. The result is a vibrant, flavoursome Barossa red that you just want to cuddle.

Vineyards

Over the last 20 years, brothers John and James Lienert have transformed the family farm on the western edge of the Barossa Valley into a viticultural wonderland. Every grape used to craft a Jack West wine is grown in those vineyards, where the broad blue skies, long sunny days and famed 'terra rossa' soils allow generous flavour and solid structure to develop naturally. The elevated position takes advantage of afternoon sea breezes from nearby St Vincent Gulf to cool the canopy, producing bright aromatics and retaining natural acidity in the wines.

2020 Vintage

Very much a tale in two parts with pre veraison dominated by stories of extreme heat, wind and nearby bushfires! Chapter 2, entitled 'The Good Things that Happened Post Veraison', reads like a modern day fairy tale full of big blue skies, warm days and cool nights that ride in like a knight in shining armour to save the day! Chapter one made a mess of quantity, chapter two more than made up for it, yielding some of the best wines we've ever seen.

Winemaking

Each variety was harvested separately at optimal ripeness from 6 to 27 March. The fruit was destemmed in the vineyard, with stems returned to the soil for natural composting. Harvesting in the wee cool hours of the night allowed for optimal freshness and aromatic retention. Fermentation methods for each parcel cantered on achieving florals for the grenache, savoury elements for the Mataro, and fresh juicy fruit for the shiraz. All ferments were worked by hand and barrel aged in seasoned French and American oak for 10 months. Parcels were matured separately and blended in order to achieve a perfect balance and mouth-watering finish.

Tasting Note

Vibrant red and purple hues radiate from the glass, with beautiful aromas of lavender & potpourri coming from the grenache, raspberry and plum from the shiraz, and beautiful savoury Mataro notes of petrichor and spice. Well balanced with great structure and length.

Reminds me of 10-year-old me drinking sarsaparilla watching dad plough up the paddocks ready for seeding.

James Lienert, understudy to Mr. West

"For \$25 you get your money's worth." 91 points, Jeni Port, Wine Pilot

"...delivers with a bit of style." 90 points, Ray Jordan, Wine Pilot

"...lovely to drink" 90 points, Campbell Mattinson, Wine Front

