



2012 Tatiarra Culled Barrel Shiraz

This 'near perfect' reject is the result of Tatiarra's ruthless pursuit of perfection with winemaker Ben Riggs culling any barrels that are not up to the lofty standards of the Estate's top labels.

Region: Heathcote, Victoria

Winemaker: Ben Riggs

Background: Tatiarra produces four styles of Shiraz and any wine that is not suitable for inclusion into the main blends is labelled as 'Culled Barrel Shiraz'. An accountant would argue that growing a single grape variety is not exactly a prudent business practice, for if the demand for the variety wanes, Tatiarra has no other wine to offer. This may well be the argued case in larger, more diverse wine producing companies, however Tatiarra is a specialist niche producer. The company's obsession is not to be the biggest, but rather one of the best Shiraz producers in the world. In order to achieve the extraordinary quality of Tatiarra's flagship wines (Cambrian, Caravan of Dreams & Trademark), each barrel from each vintage is tasted and classified. Any barrels, that for whatever reason, fail to improve the flag ship wines are culled. Winemaker Ben Riggs is ruthless in his selection, and it is often with considerable dismay (and subsequent financial loss) that the winemakers declare a barrel not worthy of the main blend.

Vintage Conditions: 2012 saw excellent spring rains and a generally mild summer. The combination of low crop levels and mild conditions during the ripening period together with cool nights and good canopy size were all conducive to excellent flavour development and the retention of natural acidity in the fruit, resulting in good acid to ripeness balance being achieved and very strong flavours. Tatiarra's shiraz showing full colour, varietal character and weight. As a result of these conditions, in conjunction with the efforts of Rob Gibson as senior viticulturist and Bob Wilson our vineyard manager, Tatiarra produced some of its best fruit to date. A vintage to look out for.

Colour: Inky black purple colour with deep dark purple hue showing superb depth

Nose: Relatively youthful but lifted bouquet of blackberry and dark plums are followed by some liquorice, vanillin oak and a hint of spicy pepper.

Palate: The 2012 marks a return to the richness, concentration and power of the hugely popular 2009 vintage. This is a big mouthfilling wine exhibiting dark fruit flavours of liquorice, ripe blackberry and dark plum with some underlying vanillin oak and pepper characters. Solidly built tannins provide the wine with an impressive structured mouthfeel. Excellent flavour persistence with long aftertaste of liquorice, ripe blackberry and peppery vanillin oak. Cellar 6-8 years.

Alc/Vol: 15.2%

Bottled with Stelvin Seal.

Packed in 6 x 750ml Cartons



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