



2013 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: Good Winter rains were followed by a period from September right through to harvest in which virtually no rainfall occurred. Summer temperatures were high throughout this period. As a result of these warmer conditions vintage started on the 5th March, roughly 1 week ahead of schedule. Dropping of fruit began earlier than usual and the controlling of canopy cover resulted in excellent flavour development. The diligent use of the limited water resources at critical times by vineyard manager Bob Wilson during this dry period meant the vineyard flourished. There's no doubting that in years to come the 2013 wines will be considered to be up there with the best Tatiarra has produced if not the very best.

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

Nose: Still young but very intense dark fruit aromas of blackberry and dark plums are followed by some liquorice, vanillin oak and a hint of spice.

Palate: This is one of the biggest and richest Culled Barrels released to date. Powerful flavours of liquorice, ripe blackberry and black cherries fill the mouth with some underlying spicy vanillin oak and peppery characters ably supported by firm muscular tannins. Excellent flavour persistence with long aftertaste of ripe blackberry, black cherries, liquorice, blackpepper and vanillin oak. Cellar 10+ years.

Alc/Vol: 15%

Bottled with Stelvin Seal.

Packed in 6 x 750ml Cartons

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