

# Botham

## TASTING NOTES

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### Sir Ian Botham Barossa Valley Single Vineyard Shiraz 2013

#### VINTAGE CONDITIONS

The 2013 Barossa Valley vintage was one of the driest, earliest and quickest in living memory. Below average rainfall throughout the 2012/2013 growing season led to variable vine growth across the region. Severe heat events were also experienced in October and November. Violent storms and then continuing dry conditions in December and January resulted in poor fruit set. A further heat event in February saw grape sugar levels spike, and potential yields further decrease. Most vineyards were harvested by late February/early March, with almost all picking complete by the end of March. This is a month earlier than 2012, and one of the earliest finishes to vintage in memory. Overall vineyard yields were very low, but quality of Shiraz was strong. Smaller berries led to wines of exceptional colour, flavour and tannin depth with Shiraz one of the standout varieties of the vintage.

#### VINEYARDS

The fruit for this wine is grown on the premium Estate Koch Road vineyard just south of Tanunda in the Barossa Valley. The best fruit from the vineyard was kept separate in a discreet parcel. The vineyard was planted in the mid-eighties and is now over 30 years of age. The cropping ability of these mature age vines is limited by the terroir and the natural annual growth pattern of the vines but the low yields in turn produce wines of great concentration and depth.

#### WINEMAKING NOTES

After harvesting this individual high grade parcel of fruit was vinified in small stainless steel fermenters. This enables careful extraction of the colour and flavour precursors from the grapes during fermentation into the final wine. The gentle removal of soft natural tannin is carried out by "pumping over", a process which involves pumping the fermenting grape juice over its own skins. This adds significant mouth feel qualities to the final wine and will

enable the wine to live in the bottle over an extended period of time. The resultant wines were pressed gently using the best air bag membrane pressing technology available. The pressings portion is added back to the final wine at blending time, allowing for accurate development of this soft well-structured Shiraz, attributes that the Barossa Valley is world famous for. The final wine has seen minimal fining and filtration prior to bottling. Maturation of the wine was carried out in new and second use French oak hogsheads over a twenty month period in our cellars. At release the wine has seen a combined 5 years of oak and bottle maturation.

#### WINE STYLE

This particular Barossa Valley Shiraz style is what the Barossa is now world famous for, it is robust and full-bodied with a firm yet fine tannin finish and typically represents the style winemakers strive to achieve as typical of the best for each vintage.

This wine was made in partnership with Nick Badrice, Chief Winemaker at the Dorrien Estate winery.

#### COLOUR

Intense, attractive deep ruby purple.

#### NOSE

Rich plum, complex mocha - chocolate and spicy fruit with integrated light vanillin oak and a hint of anise, are all subtly combined. The nose shows great depth and concentration of fruit and the benefit of extended maturation pre-release.

#### PALATE

Round, soft and full flavoured with lengthy fine grain tannins. Flavours of fruity spice, coffee, chocolate and blackberry carry through onto the lengthy and persistent palate.

#### WINE ANALYSES

Alc/Vol: 15%      pH: 3.52      Acidity: 6.6g/l

#### PEAK DRINKING

This wine has seen extended maturation, with concentrated fruit and firm fine grain tannin it has been designed to drink well on release but age gracefully. With careful cellaring the wine will become more complex and soften further it will begin to show its best in 2-3 years reaching its full potential in about 5-10 years.

