

# CHARLES MELTON

Newsletter Spring 2019

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# Spring 2019

Hi Folks

Welcome to the spring newsletter. The sunshine heralds the lead in to the entertaining time of the year, culminating in the great Christmas feast. And the celebration of the incoming year. We have a wine for each occasion!

The countryside is looking deceptively green at the moment. Picturesque on the surface but still dry below. The moisture levels are marginally ahead of last year but still 30% or so below average. We expect another crop on the small side but if the quality trend follows that of 2018 and 2019 you won't hear too many complaints from us. Both those vintages in barrique look very exciting and we are just commencing the barrel tasting and blend selection of the 2018's. Currently still in their vineyard designations, we will, after tasting every barrique, put together the Popes, Grains, Kirche etc. and return them as finished blends to the appropriate oak regime for their final polish prior to settling and bottling.

For those of you who have visited recently, or will be coming through, up to and during Christmas you will see our vineyards in their chemical free state. We have always used only organic sprays on our vines, but we have extended our practices to be completely free of synthetic herbicides and pesticides in the vineyards. They may not have the Marie Kondo look of supreme tidiness, but we are cool with that!!

With regard to our release, there is a detailed explanation of the program a little further on, and an updated tasting note on all the available wines. And further to that, a great gift idea, personal or corporate, with our new superb three bottle packs. Lastly, the dinner series will be about to commence when you receive this. The October events (Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne) are fully subscribed but the November dinners (Perth, Adelaide and Canberra) may still have spots when you are reading this. Check the website. And while you are there check out our monthly special wine events.

As usual, we would love to see you here, with our restaurant scene and selection as strong as it has been in decades, so it is a great time to immerse yourself in the Barossa wine culture.

*Charlie, Virginia & team*

## ~~~~~ The New Release Schedule ~~~~

As we have stated previously we are great believers in "élevage", the patient raising up of our wines so they get to you in a settled and balanced condition ready to start their cellaring journey. To this end we are switching slightly the range of wines released in our two newsletters each year. The April newsletters will now be the conduit for the Family Series reds and the Icon range.

The La Belle Mère and The Father in Law are given 18 months in oak and then settled before bottling, and rested after, and will be released as two year old wines. The Icon Series are generally given 24 to 30 months "sur lie" ageing and will be released in April as 3 year old wines.

The Rose of Virginia and the Regional Series (Kirche, Cabernet, Reformation etc.) will be released in September ready for the first chilled glass of Spring for the rosé and the start of the social season for the reds.

As a mature business we are now in a happy position of being able to hold stocks and fully rest them post bottling prior to release.



# Three Bottle Gift Boxes

We have had made the superb high gloss black carton you see on the front cover. Initially we had them made as three bottle packs for the 2014 Pressings and the Sotto di Ferro but we are able to mix and match any of our wines (and their varied bottle shapes), including the Sparkling red into selections of your choice.

If they are ordered as part of a twelve bottle buy they will be freight free (to a single destination) otherwise they can be delivered individually for the 6 pack freight cost. You may make up a 3 pack with any of the current release wines and also any of the museum wines listed. They would make a great wine gift for the vinous souls in your family or a great corporate/staff gift at year's end.

## New Release

### NV Sparkling Red - 2019 Disgorgement



As explained earlier our release dates are changing so the only new release is the 2nd disgorgement of the Sparkling Red. This is the same tirage bottling of last years release but with an extra 12 months on lees. All the richness and flavour of the previous wine but, with an additional layer of complexity.

N.B The last 3rd of this tiraging will be released next year after 4 years on lees and we will be releasing a special 3 pack of 2, 3 and 4 years lees ageing as a comparative trio.

## Current Releases

We look at our wines during the year in many different contexts, often alongside internationally respected examples of the same style, or in tastings with our friends in the Barossa winemaking community, alongside their efforts, to give us a radar bearing on where our particular cellar style is placed in the current fashion hierarchy.

The most pleasing aspect of this is that we consistently see a cellar style that remains true to its origins still, after 35 years (actually we acknowledge 35 years is a mere will o' the whisp in wine history!) and while we keep a watchful eye on consumer preference, our style continues to more reflect our viticultural terroir and history.

I have looked at the key portfolio wines from the 2016 vintage and written up to date notes on them as these will be sold out before the next release and 2016 is a great cellaring vintage.

#### 2016 CABERNET

If anything has changed in this wine over the last year, it is the varietal definition. The leafy cigar box Cabernet characters seem clearer. The balance and structural weight aren't that different and certainly that typical Cabernet tannic structure remains in place, auguring well for the long term. The oak appears to be sweetening slightly to match the fruit profile even more.

#### 2016 GRAINS OF PARADISE

Still a lovely deep black colour, and the fruit scents seem to be even more in the black fruit spectrum. Mulberry, blackberries that have rested in their juices. The thing that has stood out over the last couple of comparative tastings against other iconic Shiraz is the beautiful balance this wine has now struck between finesse and our trademark rich and smooth mouthfeel.

#### 2016 NINE POPES

The term "garrigue" implies both perfume and spice. The balance between the two over the last year has become almost imperceptible. Is it the musky florals you smell first or the herb and spice aromatic? The other element in Popes is the oak. You will often see some pundits quoting that new oak and Grenache don't mix, and indeed that may be true in the juvenile juicy "smashable" styles arriving on the market early, but in the richer long term styles like ours oak is a definite addition to the complexity. A "minor key" note certainly but essential nonetheless.

Now smoothing out in the mouth, the structure will just become more interesting and flavoursome as the years go by.

#### 2016 FATHER IN LAW RESERVE

A fine memoriam to Sydney Dean Weckert's final stroll through the vineyard. Dark deep everything. That Clare spiciness to me manifests itself as a Chinese five spice character, with the 100% new oak, whilst not strident, certainly at this stage unwilling to be in the background. A little Barolo tar perhaps? Its only concession to having been in the cellar for a year is the slight smoothing of the entry into the mouth. All the other elements remain defiantly unsubdued and only time will tame them.

#### 2016 VOICES OF ANGELS

Smell it. Pretty. Not light but not dark, except in colour. Red berry fruits now but after a year the cedar French oak has added an almost balsamic sweet and savoury character. The French would call this feminine as opposed to the Grains masculine. A year has started to flesh out the palate but only just started to round the tannins. Firm still. Long term.



# Halliday

WINE COMPANION



Wine Companion 2020 161

## Charles Melton

Krondorf Road, Tanunda, SA 5352 **Region** Barossa Valley

T (08) 8563 3606 [www.charlesmeltonwines.com.au](http://www.charlesmeltonwines.com.au) **Open** 7 days 11–5



**Winemaker** Charlie Melton, Krys Smith **Est.** 1984 **Dozens** 15 000 **Vyds** 32.6ha

Charlie Melton, one of the Barossa Valley's great characters, with wife Virginia by his side, makes some of the most eagerly sought à la mode wines in Australia. There are 7ha of estate vineyards at Lyndoch, 9ha at Krondorf and 1.6ha at Light Pass – the lion's share shiraz and grenache and a small planting of cabernet sauvignon. An additional 30ha property was purchased in High Eden with 10ha of shiraz planted in 2009 and a 5ha field of grenache, shiraz, mataro, carignan, cinsaut, picpoul and bourboulenç planted in '10. The expanded volume has had no adverse effect on the quality of the rich, supple and harmonious wines. Exports to all major markets.

Voices of Angels Adelaide Hills Shiraz 2015 Avant garde winemaking coupled with high quality fruit has worked to perfection. Single vineyard shiraz co-fermented with 5% riesling in used French barriques, then pressed to French barriques (100% new) for 15 months maturation on lees. While Charles Melton says the quality will be enhanced over the next 10 years, the Angels are already singing about a medium-bodied wine with perfectly integrated oak, silky tannins and a savoury edge to finish off the plum and blackberry fruit. Screwcap. 14.5% alc. Rating 97 To 2035 \$80 ⚡

Nine Popes 2015 An iconic label and iconic wine that's been a feature of the Barossa Valley for the better part of 45 years. Dry-grown bushvine grenache is the dominant variety, co-fermented with old vine shiraz and a small percentage of mataro. It is matured for 2 years in French barriques and, although the colour isn't deep, it has retained purple robes and also great depth to the mouthfeel and sumptuous multifaceted red and black flavours. Screwcap. 14.5% alc. Rating 97 To 2030 \$86 ⚡

The Kirche Barossa Shiraz Cab 2016 An 80/20% blend; the components fermented separately and matured for 20 months in French barriques before blending. Shiraz cabernet blends in the Barossa Valley aren't easy but Charles Melton has succeeded brilliantly. The cabernet component plays a key role with its blackcurrant flavours and firm tannins filling all the gaps. Screwcap. 14.5% alc. Rating 96 To 2041 \$40 ⚡

Rose of Virginia 2018 64% grenache, 26% shiraz, 10% cabernet sauvignon. Deep, bright carmine; the colour derives from brief skin contact post crushing and a 6-week cold fermentation. The wine is charged with luscious red fruits and an airbrush of tannins on the finish, giving texture to carry the delicious fruit without a blemish. Screwcap. 12% alc. Rating 95 To 2024 \$26 ⚡

Outstanding winery regularly producing wines of exemplary quality and typicity. Will have at least two wines rated at 95 points or above, and has had a 5-star rating for the previous two years. 222 wineries, 7.9%

Where the winery name is itself is printed in red, it is a winery generally acknowledged to have had a long track record of excellence in the context of its region – truly the best of the best. 101 wineries, 3.6%

GUIDE

