

L'étranger Cabernet Sauvignon, Barossa Valley 2003

PERSONNEL

Winemaker Jonathan Maltus
Enologue Neil Whyte
Consulting Enologue Gilles Pauquet
Resident Director Peter Smith
Winery Manager Scott Hazeldine
Vineyard Manager Wayne Linke
Owners The Colonial Wine Company Pty Ltd

DESCRIPTION

The prime terroir that makes up the 'Northern Arc' of the Barossa Valley lends itself to the production of Cabernet Sauvignon. Handpicked grapes are given the full triage treatment and rotation pumped during fermentation before being aged in French oak. Inky black, deep flavoured wine.

GRAPE VARIETIES

Cabernet Sauvignon 88%, Shiraz 12%

VITICULTURE

Selected blocks of single-wire trellis vines from Marananga and Stockwell in the Barossa Valley were blended for this wine. Viticultural techniques included minimal irrigation, low cropping and canopy management to maximise fruit maturation under optimum conditions. When judged flavour-ripe the grapes were handpicked into shallow trays.

VINIFICATION

Each block is vinified separately in order to optimise its individual characteristics. On arrival at the winery the grapes are sorted pre- and post-destemming (double triage) and crushed on entry into the vats. After a short pre-fermentation maceration period in which colour and fresh fruit aromas are extracted, the fermentation is started. The wine is rotation pumped during primary fermentation and also during the maceration period, which may be up to 3 weeks, after which the wine is run-off into French barrels.

AGEING

12 months on average in a blend of new, one and two year old French oak casks.

PRODUCTION

An annual production of 1,000 cases of L'étranger Cabernet Sauvignon. The first vintage of the wine was made in 2003.

PRESENTATION

Bottle: ACI Premium Claret Antique Green. Seal: Amorim Cork No 1. Capsule: Tin - Black with Electric blue top.

WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES

2003 – Deep purple colour with a slightly bluish hue. Fresh, spicy blackcurrants with a touch of minty liquorice contribute to this classic cabernet nose. Firm, fruity tannins provide backbone, which is well fleshed out and long.

Reviews & Awards

90 POINTS, ROBERT PARKER'S THE WINE ADVOCATE AUSTRALIAN ISSUE, WA155, OCT. 2004
"Sexy, opulent 2003 Cabernet Sauvignon l'Etranger - its dense purple color is followed by classic aromas of blackcurrant jam intertwined with smoke, damp earth, spice box, and toasty oak. This rich, full-bodied, impressive Cabernet displays a seamless integration of acidity, alcohol, wood, and tannin. An Australian version of a French Pauillac. It should be consumed over the next 10-15 years."