

Terre à Terre

Grown on ancient limestone soils in Wrattonbully, this vintage captures the essence of Crayères Vineyard - structured, vibrant, and age-worthy.

EST. 2004
TERRE à TERRE

Crayères Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz 2020

Adelaide Hills, Australia



Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Syrah

Region and Vineyards

Wrattonbully, nestled between Coonawarra and Padthaway in South Australia's Limestone Coast, is rapidly earning a reputation for producing finely structured red wines. The **Crayères Vineyard**, established by Xavier Bizot and Lucy Croser, sits atop a north-south limestone ridge and is named after the chalk cellars of Champagne, reminiscent of Xavier's French roots. Below its Terra Rossa topsoil lies a network of natural limestone caves, providing exceptional drainage and moisture retention, ideal for viticulture in a relatively cool climate.

Planted in high density (4,444 vines/ha), the vineyard includes **Cabernet Sauvignon (Reynella and CW44 clones)** and **Shiraz**, along with Cabernet Franc. Low-trained fruiting wires at 50 cm above the ground promote better ripeness. The clay-rich soil ensures nutrient availability, while the limestone underneath supports deep root systems, contributing to the wine's complexity and minerality. The 2020 vintage, though cool and dry, offered ideal slow-ripening conditions, enhancing fruit concentration and freshness.

Winemaking

The 2020 vintage marks the **tenth release of this Cabernet-dominant blend** and the third vintage to include Shiraz in the Crayères range. The Shiraz was hand-harvested on March 30th, while the Cabernet Sauvignon followed on April 6th and 7th. Fermentation took place in small stainless-steel tanks, with each parcel handled separately to preserve varietal purity and vineyard expression.

After fermentation, the wine was aged for **18 months in French oak barrels**, with a combination of new and older barrels to provide structure without overwhelming the fruit. The final blend comprises **81% Cabernet Sauvignon and 19% Shiraz**, offering a harmonious balance between Cabernet's linear tannins and dark fruit, and Shiraz's spice and plushness. Bottled in **March 2022**, the wine remains unfined and unfiltered to preserve its integrity and potential for ageing.

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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep garnet with a violet hue, showing excellent clarity and intensity.
- **Aroma:** Lifted aromas of blackcurrant, ripe plum, and blackberry compote, layered with bay leaf, graphite, and sweet spice from subtle oak integration.
- **Palate:** Medium to full-bodied with bright acidity and robust but refined tannins. Flavours of black fruits, dark chocolate, and liquorice unfold across the palate, balanced by a savoury, earthy undertone and a long, persistent finish.

Did you know?

The Crayères Vineyard takes its name from the famous chalk cellars (crayères) in Champagne, reflecting Xavier Bizot's French heritage. These underground limestone caves are echoed beneath the vineyard, contributing to water regulation and vine health—an unusual and prestigious terroir feature for South Australia.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled lamb with rosemary and garlic:** The herbal notes and umami depth highlight the Cabernet's savoury character.
- **Beef Wellington:** Rich textures and earthy mushroom flavours complement the wine's structure and spice.
- **Aged cheddar or Comté cheese:** The wine's tannins and acidity cut through the richness while enhancing nutty, umami notes.
- **Venison with juniper berry sauce:** The gaminess of the meat pairs beautifully with the dark fruit and spice from the Shiraz.

96 James Halliday

James Halliday (JH) : 96 Points (2020)

Intensity of flavour is very good, but it's the tannin and the associated length that really sets it apart. Blue, black and red-berried fruits, pencil shavings, gum leaf and cocoa notes push persuasively through the palate, rolls of tannin then pressing from the back palate on. A terrific release that will cellar like an absolute charm. Drink to: 2040;

90

Robert Parker (RP) : 90 Points (2020)

The 2020 Crayeres Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz is composed of 81% Cabernet, and the balance Shiraz. Matured for 12 months in old French oak. This is lovely. The tannins are drying, chewy and a little grippy, with black tea, smoke, licorice and resin laced through the finish. It is a brooding, savory wine, quite different from the 2019. This is more stylistically overt.