



# Thistledown

The Thistledown The Vagabond Old Vine Grenache is a sophisticated expression of old vine Grenache, delivering layers of flavor and an exquisite, aromatic finish.

THISTLEDOWN



Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 100% Grenache

## The Vagabond Old Vine Grenache 2021

McLaren Vale, Australia

### Region and Vineyards

**Thistledown The Vagabond Old Vine Grenache 2021** hails from the revered Blewitt Springs district within the **McLaren Vale** region, often considered the Grand Cru of Australian Grenache. This area is renowned for its deep sands interspersed with ironstone, providing the ideal conditions for cultivating high-quality Grenache.

The vineyards are comprised of four separate, old, dry-grown, bush-trained plots, each contributing to the wine's complexity and character. These **old vines**, deeply rooted in the sandy soils, are known for their ability to produce low yields of intensely flavored grapes, a hallmark of exceptional Grenache.

### Winemaking

This vintage was remarkable, with a mild and measured climate, devoid of heat spikes or drought conditions, allowing for a long ripening period. The fruit was all **hand-picked** to ensure the highest quality.

Approximately two-thirds of the grapes were wild fermented in a unique concrete pyramid, with alternating layers of whole bunches and crushed fruit, allowing for spontaneous fermentation without mechanical extraction. The remaining grapes were wild fermented in an open fermenter with 35% whole bunches and hand plunged twice daily. This portion was then aged in puncheons, while the pyramid-fermented grapes were pressed back into a concrete egg and oak puncheons for maturation.

The wine was left unfinned and unfiltered, preserving its natural complexity and depth of flavor. **Only 3,833 bottles of this wine were produced**, making it a rare and exquisite find.

### Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Medium ruby
- **Aroma:** A beautifully complex nose of **violets, wild cherry, rosemary, and warming spice.**
- **Palate:** Energetic yet polished with vibrant notes of **cherry, spice, wild strawberry, and licorice.** The wine is medium-bodied but multi-layered and textural, leading to a very long, aromatic finish.



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## Did you know?

**Did you know** that the fermentation process for Thistledown The Vagabond Old Vine Grenache utilizes a concrete pyramid, which allows the fermenting juice to move through the layers of whole bunches like a mesh? This unique method retains the individual vineyard characters and energy of the site, a signature approach of Thistledown.

## Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Lamb Tagine:** The warming spices and fruit notes in the wine complement the rich, spiced flavors of the lamb.
- **Duck à l'Orange:** The wine's vibrant cherry and licorice notes harmonize beautifully with the citrusy sweetness of the duck.
- **Ratatouille:** The herbal and aromatic qualities of the wine enhance the medley of vegetables and Provençal herbs.
- **Beef Carpaccio:** The wine's smooth palate and complex flavors pair excellently with the delicate, raw beef and its accompanying garnishes.

### Robert Parker (RP) : 96 Points (2021)



*The 2021 The Vagabond Old Vine Grenache is exotic, fine and layered with silty, black tea tannins. It is the mid-palate onward where the succulence of fruit is revealed, and this comes across as fine but flows up with lithe, ripe fruit and complex spice notes. Eminently balanced and poised, this fills the mouth and the mind simultaneously. Yes. Rating: 95+*

### James Halliday (JH) : 95 Points (2021)



*Such a fine vintage, reverberating across such a great wine. Pithy cherry, cranberry, raspberry bon-bon, anise, thyme and basil. The leitmotif, the thrust of a superbly extracted tannic kit, sandy and pixelated, juxtaposed against the parry of fruit so refined that one can only believe.*

### James Suckling (JS) : 95 Points (2021)



*Aromas of red cherries, baked strawberries, violets, crushed stones and suede. Medium- to full-bodied with silky tannins. Succulent and mouthwatering. Mineral notes add definition and a hint of saltiness, which creates wonderful integration with the pretty red fruit. Floral as well. Lovely. Vegan. Drink or hold.*

