Thistledown

The Thistledown She's Electric Grenache is a vibrant and expressive wine that captures the essence of old vine Grenache from McLaren Vale, offering layers of wild red fruits and spice.

THISTLEDOWN

96
James Halliday

She's Electric Grenache 2021

McLaren Vale, Australia

Region and Vineyards

The Thistledown She's Electric Grenache 2021 is sourced from a dry-grown, 70-year-old bush vine vineyard located in the Seaview district of McLaren Vale, overlooking the Onkaparinga Gorge. This area is renowned for its **red-brown sandy loams with quartz and ironstone**, which provide excellent drainage and contribute to the distinctive minerality of the wine. The region's unique microclimate, with warm days and cool nights, allows for a long ripening period, enhancing the aromatic profile and natural acidity of the grapes.

The vineyard is farmed using organic principles, with wide spacing and small vines that produce low yields of about 1.5 tons per acre. These low-yielding vines result in intensely flavored grapes with bright fruit characteristics. The combination of organic farming and the unique soil composition gives this vineyard a distinctly natural feel and contributes to the overall quality and complexity of the wine.

Winemaking

This vintage benefited from ideal conditions, with mild weather and intermittent rains throughout the growing season, allowing for an extended ripening period. This resulted in exceptional fruit quality. The winemaking process began with hand-picking the grapes, where 50% were destemmed and lightly crushed, while the remaining 50% were left as whole bunches. This approach allowed for a gentle extraction of flavors and tannins.

The grapes underwent a natural fermentation, with hand plunging twice daily. After pressing, the wine underwent malolactic fermentation in barrels and was **aged for 8 months in older French oak barrels** (300 and 500 liters). This aging process helped integrate the flavors and add complexity to the wine. The final wine was bottled without fining or filtration, ensuring it retained its natural character and structure.

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 100% Grenache

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Pale yet vibrant red.
- **Aroma**: Aromatic and lifted with notes of wild strawberry, cherry, and subtle spice.
- **Palate**: Layered and textural, with flavors of red berries, herbs, and minerals, complemented by a crisp acidity and a long, elegant finish.

Did you know?

The name "She's Electric" was inspired by a unique event in the vineyard's history. During a **power outage**, birds perched on a power line that crossed the vineyard. When the electricity surged back, a bird caught fire and set part of the vineyard alight, destroying some vines. The surviving vines now produce the grapes for this wine. The name also pays homage to the song "She's Electric" by Oasis, reflecting the energy and vibrancy of the wine .

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Herb-Crusted Lamb**: The aromatic herbs and tender lamb complement the wine's red fruit and spice notes.
- **Roast Duck with Cherry Sauce**: The sweet and tangy cherry sauce enhances the wine's bright acidity and berry flavors.
- **Grilled Vegetables with Balsamic Glaze**: The smoky flavors and sweet balsamic glaze pair well with the wine's herbal and mineral notes.
- **Taleggio Cheese**: The creamy and slightly tangy flavors of Taleggio harmonize with the wine's fine tannins and layered complexity.
- **Beet and Goat Cheese Salad**: The earthy beets and tangy goat cheese highlight the wine's vibrant fruit and crisp acidity.

96 James Halliday

James Halliday (JH) : 96 Points (2021)

The Vagabond is superlative, but this is extraordinary! The tannins, taut, febrile and wound across a spool of sage, thyme and blood orange zest. The drive of red cherry, rhubarb and Mediterranean herb is palate staining, without ever reneging on its sandy, vibrant and effortless hand. Incredibly complex. Scintillating length. Kerpow!

96 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 96 Points (2021)

A complex nose of blueberry, raspberry, red cherry, violet, bark, moss and grated nutmeg. Medium- to full-bodied with silky, fruit-soaked tannins. Generous, but not overdone. Rather, it is fresh, bright and vibrant, with a bevy of succulent fruit and ground spice. Layered, with great balance.

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She's Electric Grenache 2021

Robert Parker (RP) : 95 Points (2021)

The 2021 She's Electric Old Vine Single Vineyard Grenache is like silken tofu in the mouth: it's is all about velvety texture, except here, the fruit is punctuated and supported by both very fine tannins and tense acid. This is a very smart wine, exciting, with notes of blood, raspberry pip, pink peppercorn and red licorice. It has a texturally creamy undertow, and the tannins are powdery and smashed into the fruit.