Two Hands

Named after The Big Lebowski's "The Dude" , this wine embraces both its rich, intense structure and a laid-back, drinkable appeal. With an unctuous yet balanced texture , it showcases the power of Barossa Shiraz with remarkable elegance and persistence.

TWO HANDS WINES

92 Wine Spectator

Gnarly Dudes Shiraz 2021

Barossa Valley, Australia

Region and Vineyards

The **Barossa Valley** is one of Australia's most prestigious wine regions, particularly renowned for **Shiraz**. Benefiting from a **continental climate**, the region experiences **hot summers and cold winters**, which contribute to intense fruit ripeness while preserving acidity. The valley's **diverse terrain**, consisting of rolling hills and valleys, creates **microclimates** that add layers of complexity to the wine.

The soil profile is dominated by **deep grey-red loam mixed with quartz and ironstone**, which aids in **water retention and mineral complexity**. The **2021 vintage** was marked by ideal growing conditions, with **450-500mm of rainfall**, returning to average levels after several dry years. The cool, dry ripening season allowed for **slow fruit development**, resulting in wines with **exceptional color, balanced acidity, and refined tannins**.

Winemaking

Each vineyard parcel was **fermented in open-top vessels** of varying sizes, ranging from **3 to 10 tonnes**, allowing for precise control over extraction. The must underwent **regular pump-overs three times daily** at the peak of fermentation to ensure optimal color and tannin integration.

After pressing, the **free-run juice and pressings were combined**, then transferred to **French oak barrels** for **12 months of aging**. The oak regimen consisted of **13% new French oak**, with the remainder aged in **one to six-year-old puncheons and hogsheads**, allowing for **integrated spice and enhanced mouthfeel without overpowering the fruit purity**. Each batch was vinified separately and **blended just before bottling**, ensuring a wine that captures both **Barossa's signature richness and the finesse of the vintage**.

Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 100% Syrah

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep brooding purple to black, with an intense and youthful vibrancy.
- **Aroma**: Highly lifted aromatics, revealing bay leaf, dark berries, liquorice, cassis, and violet. Subtle layers of plum and dried herbs emerge with aeration, showcasing the classic Barossa Valley Shiraz profile.
- **Palate**: Rich, powerful, and seamless, delivering waves of spicy dark fruit. Blackberry, black cherry, and dark chocolate integrate with finely grained tannins, leading to a structured yet elegant finish. The nervy persistence of tannins suggests strong aging potential, while the wine's evenness and balance make it highly enjoyable in its youth.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Côte de Bœuf with Herb Butter** – The bold fruit and structured tannins complement the richness of a well-seared ribeye, while the herb-infused butter enhances the wine's savory spice elements.
- **Cassoulet** – The hearty mix of slow-cooked duck, sausage, and beans pairs beautifully with the wine's depth and velvety tannins, elevating the dish's rustic complexity.
- **Venison Ragù with Pappardelle** – The gamey richness of venison is perfectly balanced by the wine's dark fruit core and earthy spice, creating a harmonious and deeply satisfying pairing.
- **Aged Comté or Mimolette** – The nutty, caramelized flavors of these cheeses enhance the wine's plush fruit and structured finish, offering a refined and indulgent tasting experience.

92 Wine Spectator

Wine Spectator (WS) : 92 Points (2021)

Starts off dense and concentrated, with wild blackberry, blueberry and cassis flavors that have an appealing chewy quality, but details of Assam tea, cardamom, loam and sandalwood emerge on the long finish.

91 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 91 Points (2021)

Fruity nose of baked cherries, ripe mulberries and blackcurrants. Some black licorice. Full-bodied with ripe tannins. Silky and lightly jammy.

90

Robert Parker (RP) : 90 Points (2021)

This 2021 Gnarly Dudes Shiraz is aptly named, and shows the earthy side of the Barossa in the glass. The 2021 season was cool, and a welcome reprieve from the low-yielding, warm couple of vintages that preceded it. As such, this wine is a little slower to emerge from its shell and will really benefit from a further year in bottle. Smart, though.