

Charles Melton

Charles Melton Nine Popes is a bold and elegant blend of Grenache, Shiraz, and Mourvèdre, delivering rich, complex flavors and showcasing the unique character of Barossa Valley's old vines.

CHARLES MELTON



Nine Popes Shiraz Grenache 2018

Barossa Valley, Australia

Region and Vineyards

The **Barossa Valley** in **South Australia** is one of the country's most celebrated wine regions, renowned for its old-vine Grenache and Shiraz. The **Grenache vines** in this blend are predominantly bush-trained and over **80 years old**, contributing to the wine's intense concentration and complexity. The **Mourvèdre (Mataro)** comes from a small parcel of vines in the **Eden Valley**, while the **Shiraz** is trellis-trained, sourced from Charles Melton's vineyards and trusted partner growers.

These vines are all **dry-grown**, meaning they rely solely on natural rainfall, a practice that results in low yields but exceptional fruit quality. The region's **continental climate**, with warm days and cool nights, fosters the development of ripe, rich flavors while preserving acidity, essential for balance and structure.

Winemaking

The **Nine Popes** was crafted with a focus on preserving fragrance, texture, and complexity. After harvesting, the **Grenache (51%)**, **Shiraz (47%)**, and **Mourvèdre (2%)** underwent **whole bunch fermentation** combined with destemmed but uncrushed berries. This method enhances the wine's aromatic intensity and silky texture.

Fermentation occurred at **cool temperatures**, with gentle cap management, including hand plunging, to extract fine tannins and vivid flavors. Following fermentation, the wine underwent **malolactic fermentation** in a combination of old and new oak. It was aged for **18 months** in oak before being transferred to **new French oak** for an additional **12 months**, allowing the wine to gain complexity and structure. Natural settling and bottling preserved the purity of the wine.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep ruby with garnet hues.
- **Aromas**: A dense and layered bouquet of toasty flint, anise, licorice, and dark red fruits with subtle spice.
- **Palate**: Generous and finely structured, with sweet red fruit flavors interwoven with allspice, licorice, and savory undertones. The texture is silky, with balanced tannins and a long, complex finish.

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 51% Grenache, 47% Syrah, 42% Mourvèdre

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Did you know?

The name **Nine Popes** is a playful nod to the Châteauneuf-du-Pape wines of the Rhône Valley, which inspired this Australian GSM blend. Charles Melton was one of the pioneers who championed the preservation of Barossa's old-vine Grenache when others were removing them in favor of more fashionable varieties .

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Lamb tagine with apricots and almonds**: Complements the wine's spicy and fruity notes.
- **Duck confit with cherry sauce**: The wine's sweet red fruit character pairs beautifully with the rich, savory flavors of duck.
- **Mushroom risotto with truffle oil**: Enhances the wine's earthy and savory undertones.
- **Aged manchego cheese**: Balances the wine's richness and tannins with its nutty and sharp flavors.



James Halliday (JH) : 97 Points (2013)

Shiraz, grenache, mataro undergoing the most complex fermentation of all Charles Melton wines: hand-plunging, whole bunch fermentation, wild and cultured yeast, with a mix of single and co-fermentation, matured in French barriques (25% new) on lees for 28 months. A richly woven tapestry of spiced red and black fruits that stands apart from and above all but one or two Barossa Valley GSMs. It is wonderfully detailed and complex, yet achieves this with a lightness of foot and freshness of face.



Robert Parker (RP) : 90 Points (2012)

Oct 2015 - Reviewer : Lisa Perrotti-Brown. Pale to medium ruby colored, the 2012 Nine Popes offers a seriously earthy / meaty expression of old vine Grenache, with notes of salami, bacon fat, dusty earth and garrigue over a core of mulberries and kirsch with touches of fennel seed and cumin. Medium-bodied, it fills the palate with savory and spice flavors supported by soft tannins and finishing with long lasting pepper notes. Drink : Now - 2022.