



2002 BALGOWNIE ESTATE SHIRAZ

Region

Bendigo, Victoria

Variety

Shiraz

Maturation

15 months in French and American oak

Technical Analysis

14.5 % alc/vol; 6.9g/l total acidity; 3.55 pH



Background

Established in 1969 at Maiden Gully in Victoria, Balgownie Estate was a pioneer in the renaissance of the Bendigo wine region. This great 85-acre estate is back in the hands of a private owner who is committed to the estate's tradition of producing two single vineyard wines, a cabernet sauvignon and shiraz, since 1972.

The 2002 Shiraz continues in the style established in 1999 of including a small amount of the white Viognier grape to the blend to give added complexity. This practice, while rare in Australia, is a specialty of the northern Rhone region of France and results in many of the greatest and most exotic shiraz-based wines in the world.

Viticulture

The fruit used to make this wine was sourced exclusively from the Estate vineyard, at Bendigo, which was originally planted between 1969 and the early 1970s, with the average age of the cabernet sauvignon vines being 30 years. The 2001 season was the hottest on record and the low yields and strict management ensured a wine of great depth and intensity.

Winemaking

Traditional fermentation techniques were employed to enhance the intense flavor of the grapes. The wine underwent partial carbonic maceration and was fermented in small two tonne open fermenters. The wine then spent 15 months in a combination of new and seasoned French and American oak.

Tasting Notes

The wine is a deep red/purple color and offers blackberry, licorice and spice on the nose with a hint of eucalypt and pepper. The palate is full bodied with sweet blackberry and spice flavors with fine lingering tannins. A wine which shows both structure and excellent ageing potential.

Additional Notes:

For further information contact Rob McDonald
OLD BRIDGE CELLARS 703 Jefferson St, Napa, CA 94559
Tel:(800) 622 2234 or www.oldbridgecellars.com

