

Xavier Bizot 0400 700 447 – xavier@terroir-selections.com.au
Lucy Croser 0419 843 751 – lucy@terroir-selections.com.au
mail PO Box 3128, Unley SA 5061
website terreaterre.com.au – daosa.com.au
wholesale www.terroir-selections.com.au

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Terre à Terre Cabernet Sauvignon 2012

June 2014

Terre à Terre is proud to present its third release of Cabernet Sauvignon coming from its close spaced Cabernet Sauvignon vineyard in Wrattenbully, South Australia.

Terre à Terre, a French expression meaning Down to Earth, is a small family business run by husband and wife team Xavier Bizot and Lucy Croser. Their vineyard is located next to Tapanappa's Whalebone Vineyard, at the top of a North-South limestone ridge in Wrattenbully, one of Australia's most exciting regions. The Terra Rossa top soil is characteristic of the area. The vineyard was planted on rootstocks in 2004 at a relatively high density for the area (4,444 vines per hectare), making it one of the closest spaced Cabernet Sauvignon vineyards in mainland Australia. The fruiting wire is only 50cm above ground, which is why the local vignerons call the vines the "low vines".

The 2012 vintage was a striking difference with 2011. Minimal intervention was required in the vineyard and overall it was a warm vintage without any severe heatwaves, similar to 2010. The fruit was harvested on the 20th of March 2012 and was of excellent quality.

The fruit was transported back to the Tiers winery in the Piccadilly Valley (Adelaide Hills) before it was crushed and destemmed. The must was cold settled for 2 days in our Potter fermenters, with pumping over of must at least once a day during fermentation to favour tannin and colour extraction, and to control temperature. The wine was then pressed off skins and racked to 4-year old French oak barriques where it went through malolactic fermentation.

After 7 months ageing in old oak, the wine was racked to one-year old 4,000L foudre (French oak) where it was aged for a further 13 months before finally being bottled on the 23rd of January 2014.

The 2012 release of Terre à Terre Cabernet is a classic example of Cabernet Sauvignon from the South East, the depth of the fruit flavours is matched by excellent tannin structure. Exemplary aromas of blackcurrant juice with scents of sage and five-spice then lead to a very structured mouthfeel and firm tannin on the finish. It is a great Australian cabernet with a nice French twist. Only 460 dozen were produced for the 2012 vintage.

Terre à Terre is sold to selected fine wine independent retailers around Australia as well as to many leading

Phone Xavier Bizot : 0400 700 447

E-mail: xavier@terroir-selections.com.au

Winery website: www.terreaterre.com.au

Phone Lucy Croser: 0419 843 751

E-mail: lucy@terroir-selections.com.au

Terroir website: www.terroir-selections.com.au