

TERRE à TERRE DOWN to EARTH DAOSA

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Terre à Terre Crayères Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2016

December 2018

Terre à Terre is proud to present its seventh release of Cabernet Sauvignon coming from its very unique close-spaced vineyard in Wrattenbully, South Australia. This vineyard has been baptised the Crayères Vineyard, after the chalk cellars that are found throughout Xavier's region of birth in Champagne, France. Similar natural structures are found underneath this very special vineyard, and they are now the subject of a research project led by a team from the University of Adelaide as they are full of undisturbed ancient fossilised remains.

The Crayères 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 Cabernet Sauvignon was planted on rootstocks in 2004 using the Reynella and CW44 clones, at a relatively high density for the area (4,444 vines per hectare, similar to the density of vineyards in Saint Emilion). The fruiting wire is only 50cm above ground, which is why the local vigneron call the vines the "low vines".

The 2016 growing season was the warmest and driest on record – from the start until the end. Ideal flowering conditions led to early fruit set. Dry soils created the perfect conditions for the establishment of a very balanced and open canopy, with no need for trimming after very efficient manual shoot thinning in early December. Véraison occurred even earlier than 2015 and finished quickly for all varieties. Because of the perfect fruit set, and high potential yields, all red varieties were bunch thinned at véraison to make sure the yields were kept to 6 tonnes per hectare. The Crayères vineyard did not experience any severe heatwaves in 2015/16, apart from one day reaching 40 degrees in December. However, we believe the drought slowed down the ripening process after véraison and the fruit was picked at the same time as 2015 for all varieties. For the first time we collected data from the weather station in the Crayères vineyard. It shows 1,791 degree days from October 2015 to April 2016, which is significantly higher than average.

On the 23rd of March 2016 we handpicked our close-spaced Cabernet Sauvignon. With very low yields of 6 tonnes per hectare, the fruit was perfectly ripe at harvest, with amazing Cabernet Sauvignon cassis and ripe prunes flavours. The must was fermented in 1 Potter fermenter with boards to keep the cap submerged (cycled only once during vintage). Fermentation was very slow (less than 1 Bé per day) and the wine was pressed off skins after 35 days of maceration and fermentation and left to settle in a tank for 12 days before being racked to 48% new French oak barrels and the rest in 6-month old French oak barrels. After 10 months in barrel, the wine was racked off and blended with 9% Shiraz and 5% Cabernet Franc from Crayères Vineyard in a 7 year-old *foudre*. It aged for 18 months in the *foudre*. After a light egg-white fining, the wine was bottled early December 2018.

The 2016 release of Terre à Terre Cabernet Sauvignon demonstrate the potential of the Crayères single vineyard. It is a superb example of Cabernet Sauvignon from the Limestone Coast, with exemplary cassis fruit flavours. It has the tannin structure and the fruit of a world class Cabernet Sauvignon. It was an extraordinary vintage for our Crayères Vineyard reds! It needs decanting. A **Vineyard Parcellaire** wine. Only 950 cases of 6 were produced. **\$55RRP, Alc.: 14.4%v/v**

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