

Terre à Terre Crayères Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz 2021

The Crayères Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz 2021 is our fourth vintage of this classic Australian blend following the long-established tradition of fine Australian Cabernet Shiraz wines — and it is also the eleventh vintage of our Cabernet Sauvignon dominant release. The mild vintage conditions provided the perfect slow ripening framework for Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz in Wrattonbully. The resultant wine is classic Australian, with black fruit characters and peppery notes from the cool climate Shiraz and velvety tannins and a lovely soft texture from the Cabernet Sauvignon.

Harvest date:

The Shiraz was hand harvested on the 25th of March 2021. The Cabernet Sauvignon was hand harvested on the 7th, 8th and 9th of April 2021.

Vineyard description:

The Crayères vineyard is located at the top of a north-south limestone ridge in Wrattonbully, one of Australia's most exciting regions. This vineyard has been baptised the Crayères Vineyard after the chalk cellars in Xavier's region of birth in Champagne, France because of the natural limestone caves found underneath the vineyard. The clay rich Terra Rossa top-soil, characteristic of the area, promotes nutrient uptake while the underlying limestone is a reserve of moisture for the vines. 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 with 1.5m wide rows), which means more km² of canopy per hectare and better fruit exposure. The Shiraz and Cabernet Franc vines were planted in 2008 at the same density, using Australian clones on rootstocks. The fruiting wire is only 50cm above ground which provides extra ripeness for the vines in this cool climate region.

Vintage description:

2021 provided perfect growing conditions in Wrattonbully, slightly cooler than the 40-year average at 1,469 degree days, with good early Spring rainfall, warm and dry November and very mild post veraison weather conditions compared to long term average. 2021 is a classic vintage for Wrattonbully, in line with 2019 and 2020.

Winemaking:

The fruit was transported back to the Tiers winery in the Piccadilly Valley, Adelaide Hills before it was crushed and destemmed. The must was fermented in larger potter fermenters and smaller open-top fermenters. After fermentation and maceration, the must was pressed off skins and each variety went through malolactic in tank. At the end of malolactic in Spring 2021, the wines were racked and aged in old French oak barrels and in old Foudres for 14 months. After a light egg fining in oak, the wines were racked in the blending tank before bottling without filtration.

Cellaring Potential:

15-20 years

Food Pairing ideas:

Alain Ducasse' Boeuf Bourguignon and fresh Tagliatelles "au beurre"

Rack of Saltbush lamb roasted with rosemary and mild chillies, medley of baby carrots and small potatoes

Grape Varieties:

Cabernet Sauvignon (66%) Shiraz (34%)

Closure:

Stelvin