

2018 JOHN DUVAL PLEXUS SGM



WINEMAKER: John Duval
REGION: Barossa Valley, South Australia
VARIETALS: Shiraz (49%), Grenache (34%), Mourvedre (17%)
MATURATION: 15 months in 100% French oak hogsheads (10% new)
ANALYSIS: 14.5% alc/vol | 6.24 g/L TA | 3.52 pH

VINTAGE: The growing season was characterised by plentiful early rains and then record rainfall for September, a welcome relief after a few lean years. Summer saw very few extreme heat days, with temperatures being below the longterm average. These conditions produced a later start to vintage, and flavor coming in at lower Baume. This is a vintage of fruit brightness, lovely supporting acidity and softer tannins.

WINEMAKING: The parcels of fruit were fermented separately with a submerged cap in small open stainless-steel fermenters. A portion of the Grenache ferment included whole bunches to accentuate the savoury aspects of the variety. The wines were barrel matured for 15 months, with 10% in new fine grain French oak hogsheads and the balance in older seasoned hogsheads.

TASTING NOTES: The nose shows lifted aromas of red fruits, woody spice and hints of smoky oak. The palate is medium bodied with bright and fleshy layers of raspberry, blackberry and plenty of baking spice. Velvety tannins lead to a finish that is long, pure, and elegant.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 95 pts Halliday Wine Companion, 94 pts Wine Spectator, 93 pts Wine Enthusiast, 93 pts Vinous, 92 pts JamesSuckling.com

ABOUT JOHN DUVAL: John Duval is one of Australia's most highly-regarded winemakers. As Chief Winemaker and custodian of Australia's famous Grange, he was instrumental in establishing Penfolds as one of the world's great wineries. Inspired by the Barossa Valley's old vine vineyards, John established his own label in 2002 and now crafts intense, focused wines that are as distinctive as the region's diverse terroir.

