

2020 JOHN DUVAL PLEXUS SGM



WINEMAKERS: John Duval, Tim Duval
REGION: Barossa, South Australia
VARIETALS: Shiraz (49%), Grenache (35%) and Mourvèdre (16%)
MATURATION: 15 months in 100% French oak hogsheads (15% new)
ANALYSIS: 14.5% alc/vol | 6.5 g/L TA | 3.55 pH

VINTAGE: Dry conditions for the second year in a row presented some challenges, with yields again well down. Despite the dry conditions, February and March were cooler than average, providing a long and even ripening period. The resulting wines are of very high quality, with great purity and depth of fruit characters.

WINEMAKING: The affinity for working with old vine Barossa Shiraz, Grenache and Mourvèdre began with John's time at Penfolds, and continues with this wine. The aim of Plexus is to express a wide spectrum of flavors, while ensuring seamless integration of the contrasting three varietals. Shiraz provides rich dark fruits and mid-palate weight; Grenache delivers a bright flavor spectrum of red fruits and spiced notes. Old vine Mourvèdre is integral to the blend, ensuring a good firm backbone of savory tannin and a long finish. 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.

TASTING NOTES: Lifted aromatics highlight the bouquet with vibrant black fruits and underlying notes of cinnamon, woody spice and a hint of smoky oak. On the palate, generous layers of black and red fruits balance abundant savory spices and fine, velvety tannins. A bright acidity ensures that it finishes long and pure.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 94 pts Wine Spectator, 94 pts Halliday Wine Companion, 93 pts Wine Enthusiast, 92 pts Robert Parker Wine Advocate

ABOUT JOHN AND TIM DUVAL: John Duval is one of Australia's most highly-regarded winemakers; his time as Chief Winemaker and custodian of Australia's famous Grange 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. Ahead of the 2016 vintage, John Duval Wines welcomed a second generation as eldest son Tim joined the family wine business working alongside his father. Together, they craft intense, focused wines that are as distinctive as the region's diverse terroir.

