

2021 JOHN DUVAL PLEXUS SGM



WINEMAKERS:

John Duval, Tim Duval

REGION:

Barossa, South Australia

VARIETALS:

Shiraz (48%), Grenache (28%) and Mourvèdre (24%)

MATURATION:

15 months in 100% French oak hogsheads (15% new)

ANALYSIS:

14.5% alc/vol | 6.5 g/L TA | 3.55 pH

VINTAGE: With better winter rains, and a perfectly timed shower in February, Barossa was rewarded with better crops and berry size after a few drought-affected years. Conditions through late April could only be described as perfect, with no heat spikes and cool nights. This meant for a long, even ripening period and a lovely pace to the growing season. 2021 will be remembered as an exceptional Barossa vintage.

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: This is polished and juicy, the long and mild 2021 season on show here. There are notes of raspberry pip and cocoa, a hint of chocolate-covered licorice and tobacco, brine and star anise. It's a lovely wine, as ever.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 94 pts JamesSuckling.com, 93 pts Robert Parker Wine Advocate, 93 points Vinous

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.

