

KAESLER



Old Vine Shiraz 2009

The Old Vine Shiraz is vinified from three vineyards, each planted in 1961. The cutting where taken from its mother and neighbour, The Old Bastard vineyard. The Old Bastard is genetic material that only exists in Australia, its parentage being lost to Phylloxera in Europe in the 1880's. The fruit from these vineyards was sold to various wineries over the years and often finding a home in some of the Barossa's most prestigious blends. The Old Vine was first retained and bottled as "Kaesler" in 1988. The original source block is still used along with two other parcels of comparable quality and genetic uniqueness. Although we consider it a blend of three separate parcels (essentially three different soil types), they are all within 200 metres of each other.

2009 as a season was unfolding in a very similar way to the illustrious 2008. Predictions of heat waves of Biblical proportions were being forecast. Although we beat the heat and made some legendary wines in 2008, we were not in the mood to chance our luck again and made a deliberate decision to pick earlier than we had for the last decade. The result was wines that have a more pure, bluer and red fruit streak through them. This is a significant step away from the blacker fruit styles that we had produced throughout previous years. A genuine reflection of three great blocks. We asked them for something different and they responded for us. This is a luxury only available to site with low yields and good viticulture and a crack winemaking team.

Look: Deep garnet core with rim displaying vibrant cherry hues. A little less dense than normal

Smell: Currant, rhubarb, Wilson plums. Whiffs of cedar, sandalwood, vanilla and fresh cream

Drink. Wilson plum (yellow flesh) and red fruit, lead softly moulded tannin. Palate is soft and long, with fresh milky acidity. Palate is long and deceptively soft for Old Vine. It has a distinct savoury twist on the very end of the palate.

Notes: Tightly wound and structured. This is a keeper. Genuine 15-20 proposition with good cellaring. 2011 marks the 50th vintage for the Old Vine source blocks. 2012 marks the 25th vintage for Old Vine Shiraz