

THE FRUIT

The grapes for this wine come from my Filsell Vineyard, located on the deep alluvial soils of the Lyndoch Valley district of the Barossa. With its numerous near-century-old shiraz vines, it is one of the most respected vineyards in the Barossa. A mid-season hot spell made the 2000 vintage a difficult one, but well managed vineyards such as Filsell produced excellent fruit with all the Barossa's trademark richness.

THE WINEMAKING

The fruit was harvested at about 14–14.5° Baumé. After crushing, the shiraz was fermented on skins for seven to eight days in a combination of open concrete fermenters and closed stainless-steel fermenters. Temperatures were allowed to peak at 25–28°C early in the fermentation and then were brought down to about 20°C. To assist extraction of colour and flavour, the fermenting juice was pumped over three times a day. To further build the tannin structure, we let the ferment go down to less than 1° Baumé before pressing off skins. Fermentation was completed in 60 per cent new and 40 per cent one-year-old American oak. After fermentation, the wine was racked then returned to the same barrels for 20 months maturation.

(2000 FILSELL SHIRAZ)

Due to the longer ferment on skins, the 2000 Filsell has a more pronounced, tighter tannin structure than previous vintages and is even more complex. The powerful, concentrated fruit flavours are well balanced by the oak, which is quite subdued and already well integrated. The principal aromas are of violets, plums, berryfruit and spice, backed by vanillin oak. This is a big, powerful, chewy red with plenty of fleshy fruit covering the tightly grained tannins. While approachable as a young wine, the 2000 Filsell Shiraz will continue to improve for at least 12-15 years if properly cellared.

THE COMMENTS

The new packaging for this vintage of Filsell Shiraz signifies a “coming of age” for our dry red which has received numerous accolades in Australia and internationally.

I have worked particularly hard on boosting the quality of Filsell and believe it has achieved a consistent excellence that warrants it being lifted above the rest of our individual-vineyard range.

