



Australian Family Owned Since 1858

RUFUS STONE

HEATHCOTE SHIRAZ 2016



Vineyard

Tyrrell's established their vineyards in Victoria's Heathcote in 1994.

Vintage Conditions An early bud-burst, warmer night time temperatures and lower crop levels, all resulted in one of the earliest and quickest picks ever and some of the best fruit quality we have seen so far.

Winemaker's Notes An unusually early harvest in mid-February. The individual blocks were harvested and transported to our Hunter winery in the cool of the night with the temperatures usually getting below 10°C. After gentle destemming, the fruit was fermented separately in a combination of open and closed fermenters, producing 10 cuvées, each receiving slightly different handling. All were matured in predominately French oak barriques (20% new) in our temperature controlled barrel shed at 16°C for 18 months, during which they were racked three times. The 'Rufus' blend is made from the better batches, and pleasingly this year all were deemed good enough, highlighting the strength of the vineyard and the vintage.

"killed by an errant arrow, fired by Sir Walter Tyrrell"

Tasting Notes

Deep rich red colour hints at the intensity of this wine. The nose is full of regional ripe plum, dark cherries with a pinch of white pepper and sweet vanillin. Flavours carry onto a palate of big soft fruit, balanced by regional minerality, elegant oak and natural acid. Classic Heathcote shiraz, a rich full wine with a complex structure and a long fresh finish.

Date Picked 17 – 26 March 2016 | **Date Bottled** 12 January 2018

Alc 14.9% | **pH** 3.47 | **TA** 6.72 g/L

THE STORY OF RUFUS STONE

Our top non-Hunter reds are named after the legend of the death of King William II, who was known as Rufus. He was supposedly killed by an errant arrow fired by Sir Walter Tyrrell whilst hunting in the New Forest. The site is today marked by a monument known as the Rufus Stone.

Heathcote is one of Australia's unique and exciting red wine areas. Its unique topography provides the combination of climate and ancient soils to produce Shiraz that are fully ripe with white pepper character, excellent acidity and fine grained tannins.



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