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BAROSSA VALLEY

## 2012 The Laird

*Every now and then, in life and in wine, we are presented with unique opportunities to express ourselves and create something truly remarkable. When these rare opportunities arise, we need to capture, nurture and develop them so that their potential is fulfilled. So when we were given the opportunity to work with one of the most famous vineyards in the Barossa Valley, it became almost inevitable that the resulting wine would be truly remarkable.*

### The Vineyard

*Every great wine in the world has its roots buried in the terroir of a breathtaking vineyard, and the Laird is no exception. Originally owned by the legendary Malcolm Seppelt, fruit for the Laird comes from the Gnadenfrei vineyard, nestled on a gentle south facing slope on the eastern side of a ridge separating the Seppeltsfield and Marananga appellations in the Barossa Valley. Planted in 1958, the 5 acres of Shiraz is embedded in very dark, heavy clay loam over red friable clay. The vineyard is meticulously hand tended, un-irrigated, traditionally farmed and pruned. The resulting small, concentrated Shiraz berries produced consistently on the property make it the envy of all winemakers in the valley.*

### The Barrels

*The oak selected for the maturation of this wine is considered to be some of the finest barriques in the world - Dominique Laurent's 'Magic Casks'. Dominique Laurent is an extraordinary individual and a truly great winemaker in his own right. He was so frustrated by the sales-driven and mass-production methods of the larger cooperages in France that he decided to make his own barrels. He left nothing to chance when developing his cooperage, selecting a site that was very high in wind and rain on the côte at the edge of La Forêt de Citeaux. The coopers he selected to craft his barrels had deep ties to artisanal barrel production, proud and driven by traditional techniques. The oak was personally harvested from Forêt de Tronçais in Allier and more specifically from the original area of this forest that was known to produce the finest oak. The oak trunks were split by hand and then again hand split into staves, producing staves that are almost twice as thick as traditional machine split staves. These were then aged for 48 to 54 months at a location that is already more exposed and weathered than the average maturation site. After this aging, the staves were hand-made into barrels. As part of this process, they were heated over three differing flames for several hours. This again is much longer than the standard process; however it does not result in a heavy toast because of the remarkable density of the wood.*

## **The Winemaking**

*The Gnadenfrei vineyard is handpicked in two separate parcels a few days apart depending on vintage conditions. It is immediately taken to the winery where the fruit is gently de-stemmed into wooden & concrete open top fermenters. It is then carefully nurtured for 6-7 days on skins with pump overs occurring twice daily, varying in duration and intensity. When primary fermentation is almost complete, the wine is drained from the skins and the must is gently basket pressed for 8 hours. The wine remains in a stainless steel tank until primary fermentation is completed. It is then run directly into new French barriques coopered by Dominique Laurent where they spend 36 months under temperature controlled conditions. Once the oak and the wine have melded perfectly the wine is blended and bottled without the use of filtration or fining. Finally it is matured in the bottle for a further 24 months before release.*

*The Laird is a wine born from perfectionists following the highest possible standards.*

## **The Vintage**

*The 2012 Vintage will undoubtedly go down as one of the great vintages that the Barossa Valley has experienced. The Vintage is completely 'dirt driven' in that there was no serious weather event that pulled the flavour profiles of the wines either way.*

*The cool weather conditions and resulting slow ripening period allowed us to pick The Laird with perfect aromatic ripeness and purity of fruit and the sublime quality is second to none.*

*The Western block was harvested in perfect condition on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March and the Eastern side a day later on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Both blocks remained on skins for just one week. The resulting wine shows all the opulence and elegance of previous Laird's, but with a complexity, precision and prominence that will make sure it ages gracefully for the next 20 years plus.*

*One of the greatest examples of Barossa Valley Shiraz.*

<b>VARIETAL:</b>	<i>100% Shiraz</i>
<b>VINEYARD:</b>	<i>Gnadenfrei Vineyard – Planted 1958</i>
<b>SUB REGION:</b>	<i>Marananga</i>
<b>pH:</b>	<i>3.55</i>
<b>ACIDITY:</b>	<i>6.42g/L</i>
<b>ALCOHOL:</b>	<i>15.5% Alc/Vol</i>
<b>BOTTLING DATE:</b>	<i>16<sup>th</sup> July 2015</i>