



Barossa Valley Shiraz 2008 Tasting Pack

Subtle Shiraz from Greenock

Bengalee "Crown Land" Barossa Valley (Greenock) Shiraz 2008

Region: Greenock, Barossa Valley

Some extraordinary wine comes out of the subregion of the Barossa around the township of Greenock and it is one of our favourite areas to explore. Greenock is further south and west than Moppa but still very much considered Northern Valley. It is very different to Moppa as here we are off the plains and into rolling hills which will alter the climate and create much more vineyard to vineyard variation.

The base wine for this blend (88%) was picked quite early and therefore missed the heatwave that made life quite difficult for winemakers in 2008. The result is a relatively low alcohol wine at 13.3%. This was grown on roadside vines that are owned by the Local Council – hence "Crown Land". 10% of a bolder Greenock shiraz was added – this wine provides the whiff of oak – and 3% Stockwell Shiraz 2009 (Kalleske).

Quite dense and concentrated with some tarry flavours – good length and structure. Medium term cellaring.

101 dozen were made.

Ripe And Full Without High Alcohol

Old Moppa Road Barossa Valley Shiraz 2008

Region: Moppa Springs, Barossa Valley

The north western edge of the Barossa Valley has been the source of many great reds and is fondly known as 'Grange Country'. This area encompasses Kalimna and an area further west known as Moppa.

This wine is a blend of 88% Moppa Shiraz (Lovedale) with 8% Stockwell Shiraz 2008 (Kalleske) which is in the same northern area although on the eastern side and 3.5% Rosedale Mataro 2008 which is Midwest Barossa. The Stockwell Shiraz adds some body and this particular Mataro has added a lovely soft mouthfeel to the wine with a few drops of Stockwell Shiraz 2009 (Kalleske) for a fresh lift.

The base Moppa wine grapes were picked quite early and therefore missed the heatwave that made life quite difficult for winemakers in 2008. The result is a relatively low alcohol wine at 13.4%. It is ripe and full and quite concentrated without being heavy. A terrific drink to give you a break from the usual high alcohol Barossa ripeness.

76 dozen were made.

Classic Old School Shiraz

Karrawirra Barossa Valley Shiraz 2008

Region: Barossa Valley

This is Classic Barossa Valley Shiraz, blended from grapes sourced across the Northern Valley from growers Kalleske, Schiller, Schwarz and Schulz, with a touch of Eden Springs fruit.

100% Shiraz – it is dark, violet, rich and creamy. Plenty of vanillan oak and a very dry, long finish. Mid range Barossa alcohol at 14.8%.

Medium term cellaring.

1600 cases were made.

Is it the Mataro or the Carignan?

The Garagiste Barossa Valley Shiraz 2008

Region: Barossa Valley

Made by one of the top local Garagistes, this Shiraz is different as it has not only Mataro in the blend but a splash of another old fortified grape, Carignan.

The palate is deliciously sweet and creamy with hints of vanilla and a terrific long, lifted finish.

I do wish I was at the table when the blend was being put together as I cannot definitively say whether it is the Mataro or the Carignan that provides this lift – maybe it is both.

Getting up there with 15.0% alcohol.

Medium term cellaring.

153 cases were made

Bursting with Savory Fruit Characters

BIN 221 Barossa Valley Shiraz 2008

Region: Barossa Valley

The winemaker who made our Bin 221 & 222 wines is very secretive about where he sources his grapes. One wouldn't say it is a 'cut throat' business, but a good supply of the right sort of grapes, from a grower who will crop the vineyard as you need it, is fundamental to success in what can be a difficult trade. As such, we can tell you little to nothing about the vineyards these wines came from.

However, we knew that the provenance would not be available when we were offered the wine and we purchased it regardless. Why?

Decisions to buy were made purely on taste and therefore offered value for money. There would be no tricks, no smoke and mirrors, and no sales pitch. "Here is the wine, here is the price" was as complex as the offer got. We leaped in with both feet.

The Bin 221 is bursting with savory fruit characters and a long, full finish. Delicate use of oak reveals the deft hand of the maker.

Alcohol 14.4%.

133 cases were made.

"Proper" Barossa Shiraz

BIN 222 Barossa Valley Shiraz 2008

Region: Barossa Valley

The winemaker who made our Bin 221 & 222 wines is very secretive about where he sources his grapes. One wouldn't say it is a 'cut throat' business, but a good supply of the right sort of grapes, from a grower who will crop the vineyard as you need it, is fundamental to success in what can be a difficult trade. As such, we can tell you little to nothing about the vineyards these wines came from.

However, we knew that the provenance would not be available when we were offered the wine and we purchased it regardless. Why?

Decisions to buy were made purely on taste and therefore offered value for money. There would be no tricks, no smoke and mirrors, and no sales pitch. "Here is the wine, here is the price" was as complex as the offer got. We leaped in with both feet.

The Bin 222 is what Richard Farmer would call "proper". Very deep purple colour, with black fruit and bitumen. Great length with superb gripping tannins but with a lightness that reflects this winemakers' style. Superb.

Alcohol 15.3%.

125 cases were made.