

MITOLO

2018 SERPICO CABERNET SAUVIGNON

TASTING NOTES



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

This isn't just any Cabernet Sauvignon. With our Serpico, we do things a little bit differently; we follow the traditional Italian technique of drying the grapes to produce an Amarone style wine. When Frank Mitolo decided to introduce a Cabernet into his premium 'Mitolo' range, he was prepared to go against the grain, and produce a unique wine style in Australia. Much like the man the wine is named after, Frank Serpico who went against all odds to expose an immense depth of corruption in the New York police force.

STYLE

Serpico, the flagship Mitolo Cabernet, is made using the Amarone technique of drying grapes before fermentation. This process concentrates flavour contributing mid palate plushness, complexity and mouth coating yet silky tannins. It's a unique wine that is rich and structured yet has the balance of elements crucial to the Mitolo style.

VINEYARD

2018 vintage in McLaren Vale was yet another stunner with winter rain setting up great conditions for good canopy growth and the dry spring keeping vigour in check. Fruit for our Serpico comes from the Lopresti vineyard, and more specifically the Chinese Block, which is located at the southern end of McLaren Vale about 3km east of the coastal town of Port Willunga. The Cabernet in this vineyard is planted on black Biscay clay which along with the ideal Mediterranean climate produces wines of concentrated varietal character.

VINIFICATION

Fruit is hand picked quite early (around 13° Baume) and placed onto 10kg drying crates. The grapes are left to dry in our temperature and humidity controlled sheds for approximately six weeks. This follows the traditional Amarone techniques, resulting in a 30% loss in bunch weight. After drying, the wine is fermented on skins for two weeks and then is left for a further three weeks before pressing. This extended time on skins actually helps to soften the wine as the small, aggressive tannins are bound up in the process leaving only larger, silky tannins in the wine. The wine is then stored in oak barrels for ten months before careful barrel selection precedes blending and bottling.

REGION

McLaren Vale.

VARIETY

100% Cabernet Sauvignon

HARVEST DATE

March 2018

BOTTLING DATE

February 2019

CLOSURE

Stelvin.

COLOUR

Inky dark red

NOSE

Leafy herbal flavours are strong with fresh cut grass, citronella, black tea leaves. The concentrated fruit sits alongside these flavours with cassis and dried red currants.

PALATE

Initially supple and very concentrated and yet at the same time with a faintly elegant feel to start. The impressive flavours, concentrated by the drying process are powerful and complex, with pyrazine herbals and dried fig. Powerful tannins eventually take charge providing a balance and dryness to the strong fruit.

CELLARING

10 - 12 years.

MATURATION

Aged in 100% new barrels which are a blend of 80% French and 20% French coopered American oak for approximately 10 months.

FOOD MATCH

Big, hearty meat dishes or, as we do, after a meal with sharp, hard cheese from the Veneto such as Asiago d'Alveo, walnuts and pear.

ALCOHOL (Alc/Vol) 14.5%

RS 0.2 g/L

pH 3.77

TA 5.29 g/L

RRP \$89.00