



BlackJack 2010 Shiraz

VINEYARD & VINTAGE

Blackjack Vineyards is situated on an easterly slope, in the old apple-and-pear-growing district of the Harcourt Valley in the foothills of Mt Alexander. Although just south of Bendigo, the climate is considerably cooler, with vintage typically occurring late April into early May. The Harcourt Valley is normally blessed with “Indian Summer” autumns — warm days and cool nights. The soils are mostly very old and not overly fertile granitic soils. The vineyard is hand pruned and hand harvested. The Blackjack Shiraz is from the original planting in 1988.

A warm-to-hot summer was punctuated by more significant rainfall than we’d had for the previous few years, but it was well timed and didn’t have any adverse effects on fruit quality. All fruit harvested was in excellent condition, with absolutely no disease issues.

It was a comfortable vintage that started in early April and ran for a couple of weeks. Yields were pretty much average.

WINEMAKING

Fermented in traditional open fermenters, hand plunged, and aged in American oak barriques (about a third new) for 22 months. Malolactic fermentation occurred in barrel. No finings and minimal filtration at bottling.

TASTING

Like the Block 6, this is an attractive young wine with balance and suppleness, but one that will definitely benefit from decanting early on.

Very generous on the nose, with hints of blackberry pie, plum liqueur, vanilla and nutmeg.

On the palate, there is good weight and concentration of flavour, showing plenty of fruit with oak gradually bringing things together. The tannins are powdery and dry to finish, with plenty of length and perfect balance of alcohol and acid. We generally find that the different oak regime leans this wine towards a char-grilled steak.

ANALYSIS

Harvested: March 2010

100 per cent shiraz from the original BlackJack planting.

Bottled: March 2012

pH: 3.56

Acidity: 6.2g/L

Volatile Acidity: 0.49g/L

Alcohol: 14.0 per cent

DISTRIBUTORS:

Vintners

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BlackJack Vineyards

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