



# LIENERT VINEYARDS

## 2016 Lienert Vineyards 'Laudamus' Shiraz

'Over the back Clumsy!' Dad would yell as he retold with gusto his favourite (and maybe slightly apocryphal) football story. "Clumsy the ruckman palmed the Sherrin over his back to me in the dead centre of the oval, and checking my surrounds for would be tacklers, a gap emerged in the fray. I lent back and off one step, BANG... up she went, a spiral so perfect Fibonacci himself would have wept. Straight through the middle, 3 goal posts high she was and still rising!"

A treasured memory I have of my father, and to whom this wine is dedicated.

*Laudamus* (Latin for praise) is our flagship Shiraz and created only in special vintages. A modern interpretation of Barossa Shiraz, with the vineyard playing the major role. The vineyard in question is the "house" block which is our original planting of 1654 shiraz planted in 2001 by Dad and my brother John. The vines sit on a gentle slope with shallow Terra Rossa red clay loam over a band of limestone. This allows for plenty of good nutrition from the loam, but prevents overly vigorous vine activity from the hard limestone barrier underneath. As such, the vines are much lower yielding and produce exceptional quality fruit.

Harvested in the cool of the night and destemmed in the vineyard. Natural whole berry fermentation slows the initial fermentation to build delicate structure and fragrance. Halfway through the fermentation, we chilled the wine down to slow the fermentation activity of the natural yeasts and then inoculated with a specific strain destined to build fine structure at the end of fermentation. We used small open top fermenters and hand plunged daily to allow for colour and tannin extraction. Free run juice pressings were combined and transferred to four French oak hogsheads (50% new Troncais) of which 2 made it through the final tasting trials after 24 months in oak. Just 767 Bottles produced.

**Colour** – Deep ruby and dark purple core with some youthful red rims

**Aroma** – Vibrant red and dark fruits, showing plenty of youthful characters for a 2016 wine. Earth and savoury notes, some bramble, and mushroom, strawberry, cherry compote give a nice lift. Some game and leather notes starting to develop. Oak is present but not dominating and in balance. There is richness and intensity of mocha and dark chocolate.

**Palate** – Fig, maraschino cherry, plum, sorbet, juniper, dark choc, tarragon, earth, mushroom, raspberry. A youthful fruit dominated palate with great depth and balance, just beginning to hit a very long drinking window.

After decanting, the wine really begins to shine with everything in harmony: fruit, tannin, grip, finesse, oak, and aged characters in check

As dad would love to say when content with a good glass of red. "By god! That'll do me!!"

I would have loved for him to have drunk this wine."

James Lienert, winemaker

