

TASTING NOTES



B & W Wines

JOHN DUVAL ELIGO SHIRAZ, 2012

BACKGROUND

JOHN DUVAL IS FAMOUS FOR THE 29 YEARS HE SPENT AT PENFOLDS, WHERE FROM 1986–2002 HE WAS, AS PENFOLDS' CHIEF WINEMAKER, THE CUSTODIAN OF GRANGE. IN 2003 HE STARTED HIS OWN LABEL, SPECIALIZING (PREDICTABLY, BUT SENSIBLY) IN WINES FROM OLD BAROSSA VINEYARDS.

PEOPLE PROBABLY EXPECTED JOHN TO AIM FOR A BIG, GRANGE-LIKE CREATION; INSTEAD, HE PRODUCED THE RELATIVELY ELEGANT PLEXUS, WHICH IS A GRENACHE/SHIRAZ/MOURVÈDRE BLEND. IN 2004, HE ADDED TO THE RANGE THE ENTITY SHIRAZ, AND IN 2005 THE RESERVE-STYLE ELIGO SHIRAZ. THESE ARE WINES THAT STRIVE FOR BALANCE AND ELEGANCE, BAROSSA STYLE, AND TO LARGE EXTENT SUCCEED.

THE JOB AS PENFOLDS' CHIEF WINEMAKER HAD TWO PARTS. THE FIRST WAS AS THE CUSTODIAN OF GRANGE AND THE OTHER GREAT WINES OF PENFOLDS; THE SECOND WAS DEVELOPING NEW AND EXCITING WINES. THE STYLISTICALLY DIFFERENT RWT SHIRAZ WAS JOHN'S IDEA. HE RECOGNIZED THAT ANOTHER STYLE OF BAROSSA SHIRAZ WAS LEGITIMATE, ONE HE DESCRIBES AS 'MORE OPEN, FLESHY, BLACKBERRY, BLUEBERRY, FRAMED IN FRENCH NOT AMERICAN OAK.'

OLD VINEYARDS ARE IMPORTANT FOR THIS PROJECT; FORTUNATELY, THE BAROSSA HAS A LOT OF THEM. 'AT PENFOLDS, WE COINED THE TERM "CONTROLLED NEGLECT",' REPORTS JOHN. 'OLD VINES DO TEND TO FIND THEIR OWN BALANCE IF WE KEEP THEM ALIVE.'

TASTING NOTES

COLOUR: DEEP PURPLE-RED.

NOSE: SAVOURY BERRY, SPICE NOSE. BLACKBERRY AND BLUEBERRY WITH HINTS OF LIQUORISH AND DARK CHOCOLATE.

PALATE: ELEGANT EXPRESSION OF DARK FRUIT WITH CONCENTRATED LAYERS OF BERRY, EARTHY SAVOURINESS AND SMOKED MEAT FLAVOURS. LONG AND INTENSE WITH EXCELLENT TEXTURE AND BALANCED TANNIN STRUCTURE.

REVIEWS

97+ POINTS. LISA PERROTTI-BROWN (ROBERT PARKER'S WINE ADVOCATE):

"MEDIUM TO DEEP GARNET-PURPLE COLORED, THE 2012 ELIGO HAS A PROFOUNDLY SCENTED NOSE OF CRÈME DE CASSIS, BLACKBERRY PIE, LICORICE, DARK CHOCOLATE AND BLUEBERRY PRESERVES AGAINST AN EARTHY/MEATY BACKGROUND OF BACON FAT, FOREST FLOOR, BEEF DRIPPING AND BLACK LOAM. THE DENSELY PACKED, FULL-BODIED PALATE MANAGES ALMOST PARADOXICAL ELEGANCE AND RESTRAINT WITH VELVETY TANNINS AND LIVELY ACID GIVING CLOSURE TO THE LONG, MULTILAYERED FINISH. DRINK: 2016-2030."



VINTAGE: 2012

WINERY: JOHN DUVAL ([HTTP://WWW.JOHNDUVALWINES.COM](http://www.johnduvalwines.com))

REGION: BAROSSA VALLEY

AVAILABILITY: AVAILABLE NOW IN CLASSICS

LCBO NUMBER: 399642

BOTTLE SIZE: 750 ML

COMPOSITION: SHIRAZ / SYRAH (100%)