

BRUCE THEILE RED WINE CLUB

An Evening with Purple Hands

August 2022

Editor Peter Frick, Photographers Viv Tomlinson and Steve Blee

Fresh from our magnificent

42nd Birthday celebrations we were back at Home Base this month to investigate the creations of Purple Hands Wines. Our Master of Ceremonies Graeme Worsely began the evening with the welcome of our newest members **Anthony and Cathy Sharkey**. They bring our membership now to 42. Graeme went on to welcome our guests for the night **Glen and Michelle Hillebrand and Steve Wallace Yarrow**.

We had already begun the night with cheese and nibbles washed down with a Purple hands Pinot Blanc, not quite red but well structured and mouth filling.

Graeme introduced our presenter for the night co owner of Purple hands **Mark Slade**. Mark began by giving a brief run down on how Purple Hands came to be. Craig Stansborough and Mark Slade started Purple Hands in 2006 from humble beginnings. Just over a tonne of hand picked Shiraz was crushed and barrel fermented in Craig's shed making around 100 dozen. Then came the hard part – finding a name for their new wine brand. Anyone who has made red wine will know what a pair of purple stained hands looks like! A red winemakers' hands become stained purple during vintage due to the constant contact with grape skins and the juice. And of course when winemakers are busy, they wipe their hands on their shirt. That was the inspiration behind Purple Hands Wines.

Craig was away on other winery business but some of us remember he was once a member of the club. Their home vineyard – Stansborough is situated in the Southern Barossa just north west of Williamstown. Literally, a stones throw from the Whispering Wall reservoir. The 32 acre vineyard is planted on perfect Shiraz dirt, friable red clay over limestone. The vineyard plantings include Shiraz, Montepulciano and Aglianico. The southern end of the valley is recognized as the “cooler” end of the valley, with slightly lower temperatures and longer ripening periods to develop flavours.

Purple Hands has 3 labels. **The Colours of the South range** was launched in 2019 with two offerings at Barossa Valley Rosso and Adelaide Hills Pinot Gris with more in the planning.



Coming up

- ♦ Sep: Brokenshach Wines (Home)
- ♦ Oct: Remembering Bruce Thiele Dell’Uva Wines (Lyndoch Hotel)
- ♦ Nov: Kies Wines (Home)
- ♦ Dec: Christmas at Rosenvale with Wives & partners (Away).

BRING A FRIEND

Remember, at home shows you can introduce a new guest for just \$30

GUEST INVITATION

You are invited to join a group of like minded people at a Bruce Thiele Red Wine Club dinner meeting to taste, talk about, learn and enjoy wine. Inquiries btredwine-club@gmail.com

Purple Hands continued

The **After Five Wine Co.** range was created to simply showcase single vineyards that consistently produce wines of excellence and convey their Barossa sub-region's unique quality. Within the After Five Wine Co. range there are three wines which consist of a Shiraz, Old Vine Grenache and a blend of Shiraz/Montepulciano/Aglianico (the Serata).

The **Planta Circa wine** label was created after they literally stumbled across a unique piece of Barossa viticulture history.

There are many little pieces of viticultural history in the Barossa and in 2012 they became the custodians of one of these truly unique vineyards. They are forever grateful to the Zerk family who entrusted them with the fruit from this small plot situated on the outskirts of Lyndoch.

With no records available to indicate the history of this vineyard, they engaged a historian to investigate and unearthed the story of PF Zimmerman and the family owned vineyard originally established back in the mid 1800's.

The vineyard handed over to PF Zimmerman sometime in the 1870's where it was further developed.

The original vineyard did not have any Cabernet plantings, but thanks to local newspaper evidence, PF Zimmerman was quoted as protesting the low price of Cabernet Sauvignon grapes in the first few years of the 1900s.

Thanks to this information and records of grapes from the vineyard being delivered to Sepeltsfield in 1889, they believe the Shiraz, Grenache and Cabernet vines are estimated to have been planted between 1880 – 1890.

These ancestor vines (vines equal or over 125 years of age) are the inspiration for their **Planta Circa** label – the name literally means “planted around the region of” as they are not able to offer the exact date of the plantings. They believe the Cabernet vines are some of oldest on own roots still producing fruit in the world today.

They first made the Planta Circa Ancestor Vine Cabernet in 2013 and received a resounding 97 point rating from James Halliday, who ranked it amongst the top Cabernet Sauvignon wines in the 2016 Halliday Wine Companion. It has continued to rate highly each year in the Halliday Wine Companion.



Purple Hands Continued

In 2018 they were delighted to be offered the Grenache and Shiraz from this amazing vineyard, enabling them to expand the Planta Circa range with 2 more single vineyard Ancestor Vine wines, the Shiraz and Grenache. These wines will be released in June 2020 for the first time. Each wine shows what these ancient vines can deliver, varietal fruit characters with complexity and elegance. Unfortunately, they can only produce small volumes due to the tiny plots and generally low yields. These low yielding vines only give them enough fruit to allow produce 100 -150 dozen each year, but this does vary from year to year depending on the climatic conditions.

Our first taste for the night was the 2020 Colours of the South **Mourvedre** and this was followed by the 2021 Colors of the South **Rosso**, a blend of Montepulciano 43%, Negroamaro 43%, Aglianico 14%. Vibrant colour, aromas of red berry, florals, herbs, orange peel and sweet spice resembling red wine-based vermouth.

Our third offering was the 2021 Purple Hands range **Old Vine Grenache** which had grapes picked from 60 year old bush grown stock. Next we were able to contrast this with the 2019 Planta Circa range Grenache of which the last dozen available were with us on the night. Valued at \$80 a bottle it was the winner of the Governor's Trophy Best South Australian Red Wine at the 2021 Adelaide Wine Show. For those of that want another taste it may still be found in the Government House cellar! Interestingly bottles of this wine are sealed with restructured Diam corks some 95 per cent of which is processed cork; the rest is acrylate and polyurethane and is said to come with a 30 year guarantee



Next we moved on to the 2021 After Five range **Primitivo** known to some as Zinfandel a medium bodied wine with earthy savoury undertones. Our penultimate tasting for the night was the Planta Circa range **2019 Shiraz** A medium to full bodied textured palate with supple tannins and confidently said to last 30 years. Our Final taste was the After Five range **2018 Aglianico**, a savoury and earthy drop.

Dinner for the night from our caterers the Lyndoch Hotel was Deutsche Wurst with Biersosse (German Sausages - Bratwurst, Brockwurst, Kransky and a rich dark Beer sauce.) Served with Potato mash, finely chopped kale and hot Sauerkraut. Purple hands generosity was to the fore as the ample dinner wines of 2021 Purple hands MGS, the 2021 After Five Shiraz, the 2019 After Five Montepulciano and the 2019 After Five Serata were spread around the tables.

Purple Hands Continued



Mark very kindly donated the last available 11 bottles of the 2019 Planta Circa Ancestor Vine Grenache for our door prizes and an auction. Ron Tomlinson began his new career as an auctioneer and successfully auctioned the \$80 bottles to Graeme Worsely (\$60), Colin Coleman (\$65), Luke Raggio (\$75) Allan Duthie (\$70) Glen Hilldebrand (\$70) and Cathy Sharkey (\$70).

Proceeds will go towards providing a band at the Christmas dinner.

Flushed with heady excitement Ron then conducted the Door prize raffle with the remaining 5 Ancestor Vine Grenaches. Winners were; Anthony Sharkey, Colin Coleman, Rud Nicholson, Ian Roark and Glen Hildebrand



Purple Hands Continued

Dessert was a delicious hot apple Strudel with whipped Cream, chopped glace Cherries and toasted Almonds. It came with a special offering! Member Paul Ryan has generously donated some very old Ports to our cellar and tonight with the skill of a brain surgeon cellar master Simon Granfield extracted a very wet cork intact from a **1973 Seppelts GR28 Vintage Port** and it went down a treat.

Thanks Paul it was a pity you couldn't be with us for a taste!

Graeme brought the evening to a close with a big thank you to our catering staff and Viv Tomlinson presented Mark with an appreciation Certificate.



Photos



Photos



The wines



2021 Mataro Grenache Shiraz

Vineyards :

Mataro – Andretske & Stevens Vineyard, Vine Vale
 Shiraz – Stansborough Vineyard, Williamstown
 Grenache – Zerk Vineyard, Lyndoch

Blend :

Mataro 54 %, Grenache 24 %, Shiraz 22%

Winemaking:

The Mataro and Grenache were handpicked with the Shiraz machine picked. All parcels were fermented separately allowing multiple options for blending. All three varieties were fermented in open fermenters, up to 25% whole clusters in the Grenache with nil in the Shiraz and Mataro. Temperatures were allowed to reach 30C in both the Grenache and Mataro. The Grenache and Shiraz were fermented in concrete open fermenters with header boards allowing minimal pump over. The Mataro was fermented in smaller opens with hand plunging performed 3 times daily. After 8 days on skins for the Shiraz, 13 days for the Grenache and Mataro, the wines were basket pressed and transferred into older French puncheons to undergo malo-lactic fermentation. The three varieties were matured separately until blending in November 2021, the blend was then returned to oak for another 8 weeks maturation before coarse a filtration to bottling. No fining used.

Tasting Notes:

The colour is a vibrant crimson with purple hues. Explosion of pure fruit on the nose, red and black berries dominate with Mataro florals evident. The palate is ridiculously vibrant, the juicy and sweet fruited nature of this wine is quite alluring. The tannins are wonderfully fine and add balance to the sweet fruit, the crisp acidity give a refreshing finish and lovely flow.

Cellaring:

Drink now or cellar carefully and enjoy over the next 10 years.

Analysis :

Alc 13.9 %, pH 3.44, TA 6.15, RS 1.6 g/l, VA 0.64 g/l



The wines



2020 Barossa Valley Shiraz

Vineyard :

Stansborough Vineyard, Williamstown.

Viticulture:

Stansborough: The site is around 260-280m above sea level with an east west aspect. Soil consists of a shallow red clay top soil over friable red clay with bands of quartz, ironstone and shale. The vineyard was planted in 2000 with further planting in 2011 all are own rooted, clone is heritage and 1654, BVOV55 & BVOVS10. The 2000 planted vines are spur pruned to 32-36 buds per vine, with the BVOVS clones cane pruned. The mid rows are cultivated to winter active fescue. No pesticides or herbicides are used and the vineyard has been run organically since 2018.

Zerk: Planted between 1880-1890, on own roots. This 1Ha vineyard is cane pruned with clone unknown. This vineyard normally is bottled under our Planta Circa label however in 2020 we declassified this vineyard to our Purple Hands Barossa Shiraz.

Winemaking:

The Shiraz was picked on the 26 and 27th February 2020. The fruit was crushed into open fermenters, one open fermenter was seeded with Melody yeast with the Zerk Shiraz left until natural yeast fermentation commenced. Temperatures were allowed to reach 28C with header boards on the Stansborough allowing gentle extraction. The Zerk Shiraz was hand plunged 3 times daily. After 8 and 9 days on skins respectively the fruit was basket pressed and transferred into 44% new French oak with balance into 1-6 year old French oak hogsheads to undergo malo-lactic fermentation. After malo-lactic fermentation the wine was racked, blended then transferred back to the same oak and matured for another 16 months. The wine was pumped from oak in November.

Tasting Notes:

Purple/Red colour leads to an enticing nose of raspberry, licorice, cracked pepper with some dried herb showing. The French oak adding a vanilla and mocha note. Quite a dense palate with good concentration, licorice and bitter dark chocolate flavours tend to dominate the palate. Firm tannins (a hallmark of the 2020 vintage due to the dry conditions and small berries) do give texture and balance to the wine. This wine comes alive when enjoyed with food. This wine can be enjoyed now but will reward cellaring over the next 10 - 15 years.

Analysis:

Alc/vol 14.4 % TA 5.97 g/l pH 3.64 RS 2.4 g/l , VA 0.69 g/l



The Wines



2020 Colours of the South Barossa Valley Mourvèdre

Vineyard :

Mourvèdre – Stevens Vineyard, Vine Vale, Andretzke Vineyard, Vine Vale

Winemaking:

The Andretzke vineyard was picked on the 25th of March and the Stevens vineyard on the 30th of March, both blocks were handpicked and crushed to an open fermenter. Temperatures were allowed to reach 30C with hand plunging performed three times daily. After 10 days and 11 days respectively on skins the wine was basket pressed and transferred into older French hogsheads and puncheons to undergo malo-lactic fermentation. Post malo the wines were racked from oak, SO2 added & transferred back to oak for 6 months before blending and a further 7 months maturation. No fining used.

Tasting Notes:

Purple/red leads a complex array of aroma's with Mourvèdre classic savory earthy and iodine notes, florals, orange rind and raspberry jube adding complexity. One of the highlights is the mouthfeel and length of tannin giving a wonderful combination of fruit sweetness and texture. We will not bottle a single varietal Mourvèdre every year but when we get the right conditions it deserves to stand alone to be enjoyed as a medium bodied complexed savory wine that will surprise.

Cellaring:

Drink now or cellar carefully and enjoy over the next 10 years.

Analysis:

Alc 14.1 %, pH 3.56, TA 5.39, RS 2.0 g/l, VA 0.63 g/l



The Wines



After Five Wine Co. 2019 Single Vineyard Montepulciano

Vineyard :

Single Vineyard : Stansborough Vineyard, Williamstown.

The site is around 260-280m above sea level with an east west aspect. Soil consists of a shallow red clay top soil over friable red clay with bands of quartz, ironstone and shale. The vineyard was planted in 2011 and is own rooted, clone is SAV1101. The vines are spur pruned. The mid rows have been cultivated to winter active fescue and the vineyard has been run organically since late mid-2017.

Winemaking :

The fruit was -picked on the 28th March

All the fruit was destemmed and lightly crushed (rollers open) to one open fermenter with header boards. Temperatures were allowed to reach 28C, the open fermenter was pumped over 3 times per day. After 13 days on skins the open fermenter was basket pressed and transferred into 1 x new French oak hogshead with the balance to 1-4 year old French oak hogsheads and underwent malo-lactic fermentation. After malo-lactic fermentation the wine was racked from barrel, SO2 was added and then the wine was then transferred back to the same oak and matured for another 16 months. No finings used.

Tasting Notes :

Vibrant colour, complex aromas of plum cherry and dried herbs. A medium bodied wine that still manages a balance between vibrant fruit and firm but fine tannin and packs all the elements that this variety delivers, natural acidity delivers palate length.

Cellaring :

Drink now or cellar carefully and enjoy over the next 8 years.

Analysis :

Alc/vol 13.4 % TA 6.08 g/l pH 3.41 RS 1.8 g/l , VA 0.66 g/l



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The wines



2019 Planta Circa Ancestor Vine Shiraz

Vineyards :

Zerk Vineyard, Lyndoch.
 Circa 1880 PF Zimmerman planted Grenache, Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon vines on his family property 'Woodlands' situated on the outskirts of Lyndoch. The site is around 250m above sea level with a Southerly aspect. Soil consists of deep sand over clay. The vines are own rooted, clone is unknown. The vines are cane pruned. The mid rows are cultivated to winter active fescue. Minimal irrigation is used in very dry years.

Winemaking:

The Shiraz was hand-picked on the 28th of February 2019. 5 % of the fruit was tipped into a concrete open fermenter with the balance destemmed and lightly crushed (rollers open) on top of the whole and was seeded using a neutral yeast. Temperatures were allowed to reach 28C with header boards allowing gentle extraction. After 10 days on skins the fruit was basket pressed and transferred into 42% new French oak (1 x 720lt) with balance into 1-4 year old French oak puncheons to undergo malo-lactic fermentation. After malo-lactic fermentation SO2 was added to the barrels, the wine was then left on light lees to mature for 8 months before racking. The wine was then transferred back to the same oak and matured for another 9 months. No fining used.

Tasting Notes:

Vibrant colour, lifted fruit aromas of cherry and blackberry, subtle oak notes of vanilla and sweet spice add to this inviting nose. A medium to full bodied textured palate with supple tannins. This elegant and complex Barossa Shiraz shows the flavour and balance that these incredibly old vines give. We are confident this wine will age gracefully over the next 20-30 years.

Analysis :

Alc/vol 14.05 % TA 5.79 g/l pH 3.58 RS 2.5 g/l , VA 0.60 g/l



The Wines



2021 Barossa Valley Pinot Blanc

Vineyard :

Barritt, Barossa Valley.

The family vineyard is located on the Barossa foothills at Bethany in the Barossa Valley, at 350-400m above sea level.

Winemaking:

The Pinot Blanc was handpicked, chilled overnight and whole bunch pressed directly to 10 seasoned French 300lt oak barrels. Each barrel was filled with different cuts from the press, the different levels of solids and phenolics giving each barrel its own unique texture and flavour. The barrels underwent a combination of indigenous and cultured yeast fermentation, after fermentation SO2 was added to barrels. After three months on lees the barrels were combined and prepared for bottling.

Tasting Notes:

Pale colour, aromas that jump out of the glass with so many florals, complexed by spice, lemon skin, apple, musk and flint. The palate has a wonderful texture with lovely, sweet fruit, the floral notes replicate on the palate. This wine with its flavour and textures is so easy to enjoy.

Cellaring:

Drink now.

Label Design:

The label was designed by Adelaide artist Oliver Reutens. It is an abstract depiction of our Southern Barossa vineyard with the dam, paddock then the rolling hills covered in vines and the beautiful colours of the Southern Barossa.

Analysis:

Alc/vol 12.0 % TA 5.60g/l pH 3.22, RS 2.0 g/l , VA 0.29g/l



The Wines



2019 Planta Circa Ancestor Vine Grenache

Vineyards :

Zerk Vineyard, Lyndoch.
Circa 1880 PF Zimmerman planted Grenache, Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon vines on his family property 'Woodlands' situated on the outskirts of Lyndoch. The site is around 250m above sea level with a Southerly aspect. Soil consists of deep sand over clay. The vines are own rooted, clone is unknown. The vines are goblet hand pruned to 20 buds. The mid rows are cultivated to winter active fescue. Minimal irrigation is used in very dry years.

Winemaking:

The Grenache was hand-picked on the 6th March 2019. Around 30% whole clusters were tipped into open fermenters with the balance crushed on top, header boards were placed on day 2 of ferment. Temperatures were allowed to reach 32C with pump overs performed 1-2 times daily. After 10 days on skins the fruit was basket pressed and transferred into older puncheons to undergo malo-lactic fermentation. Post malo the wine was then left 3 weeks before SO2 was added in place, the wine was left on lees and topped regularly. The wine was racked early February 2020 with no fining or filtration prior to bottling.

Tasting Notes:

Bright crimson colour leads to red fruited aromas of raspberry and strawberry, this is complexed by earth, sweet spice and pepper. Palate is medium bodied lively and fleshy with medium tannins maintaining a degree elegance, handling the higher alcohols of the 2019 season. Persistence of sweet red berry flavours combined with a soft finish gives a wine that you can enjoy now or over the next 15 years.

Analysis :

Alc/vol 15.2% TA 5.53g/l pH 3.48 RS 2.65 g/l , VA 0.59 g/l



The Wines



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2018 Single Vineyard Aglianico

Vineyard :

Single Vineyard : Stansborough Vineyard, Williamstown.

The site is around 260-280m above sea level with an east west aspect. Soil consists of a shallow red clay top soil over friable red clay with bands of quartz, ironstone and shale. The vineyard was planted in 2011 and is own rooted, clone is FP501. The vines are cane pruned. The mid rows have been cultivated to winter active fescue & the vineyard has been run organically since late mid 2017.

Winemaking :

The fruit was -picked on the 9th April.

All the fruit was destemmed and lightly crushed (rollers open) to an open fermenter with header boards and allowed to commence indigenous fermentation. Temperatures were allowed to reach 28C and pumped over 3 times per day. After 9 days on skins the open fermenter was basket pressed and transferred into 1 x new French oak hogshead with the balance to 1-4 year old French oak hogsheads to undergo malo-lactic fermentation. After malo-lactic fermentation SO2 was added to the barrels, the wine was then left on light lees to mature for 5 months before racking, the wine was then transferred back to the same oak and matured for another 12 months. No finings or filtration used.

Tasting Notes :

Vibrant colour, complex aromas of rose, red jubes, licorice, citrus peel and sage. A textural wine displaying what this variety is all about, super fine long tannin and natural acidity that drags fruit to the very back of the palate, a very slight bitter note (think Aperol) just adds to this quite wonderful varietal.

Cellaring :

Drink now or cellar carefully and enjoy over the next 8 years.

Analysis :

Alc/vol 13.6 % TA 5.81 g/l pH 3.66 RS 2.6 g/l VA 0.58 g/l



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The Wines

Mark offered us a 15% discount off the Purple hands range and this offer is still available. Check out the order form below

PURPLE HANDS WINES PRODUCT		Discount	15%	www.purplehandswines.com.au sales@purplehandswines.com.au Mark : 0401 988 185	
		RRP	Special Price	Quantity Ordered	Total Amount
Colours of the South Range					
2022 Adelaide Hills Pinot Gris (Newly released)	\$28	\$24		\$	
2021 Barossa Valley Pinot Blanc (Silver Medal 2021 Adelaide Wine Show)	\$28	\$24		\$	
2020 Barossa Valley Mourvedre (Gold Medal 2021 Australian Alternative Varieties Wine Show)	\$28	\$24		\$	
2020 Barossa Valley Rosso (Negroamaro/Montepulciano/Aglianico) (93 pts Mike Bennie)	\$28	\$24		\$	
Purple Hands Range					
2021 Barossa Valley Old Vine Grenache (6 pts Patrick Eckel, 95 pts Wine Showcase Magazine)	\$30	\$26		\$	
2021 Barossa Valley Mataro-Grenache-Shiraz (96 pts Wine Showcase Magazine)	\$30	\$26		\$	
2020 Barossa Valley Shiraz (98 pts Winestate Magazine, 96 pts Wine Showcase Magazine)	\$30	\$26		\$	
After Five Wine Co. Single Vineyard Range					
2019 After Five Wine Co. Barossa Valley Single Vineyard Montepulciano (95 pts Wine Showcase Magazine, Silver Medal 2021 Barossa Wine Show)	\$35	\$30		\$	
2018 After Five Wine Co. Barossa Valley Single Vineyard Aglianico (Gold Medal 2019 Barossa Wine Show, 5 Stars top in class Winestate Magazine)	\$35	\$30		\$	
2021 After Five Wine Co. Barossa Valley Single Vineyard Shiraz (Newly released)	\$45	\$38		\$	
2019 After Five Wine Co. Barossa Valley Single Vineyard Serata (Shiraz/Montepulciano/Aglianico) (94 pts Andrew Caillard, 94 pts Wine Showcase Magazine)	\$45	\$38		\$	
Planta Circa Ancestor Vine Range					
2018 Planta Circa Ancestor Vine Cabernet Sauvignon (96 pts Mike Bennie, 95 pts James Halliday.)	\$80	Sold Out		\$	
2019 Planta Circa Ancestor Vine Shiraz (95 pts Andrew Caillard, 96 pts Tyson Stelzer)	\$80	\$68		\$	
2019 Planta Circa Ancestor Vine Grenache (Trophy Best South Australian Red Wine 2021 Adelaide Wine Show)	\$80	Sold Out		\$	
Freight (per dozen) – Free				Total	\$
All prices are inclusive of GST.				Total	\$
NAME:		PHONE :			
ADDRESS FOR DELIVERY:					
I wish to pay by:	Credit Card (Visa/Mastercard): Card No. Exp Date CCV			EFT Details : Purple Hands Wines Pty Ltd BSB : 105-055 Account No. : 044935940	
Please add my email to the Purple Hands Wines email list :					