

H E S K E T H

VULTUREDOG

SHIRAZ
TEMPRANILLO

2018



Consumers have historically liked the simplicity of straight varietal wines, *but*, almost all wines are blends in some form or another, because this invariably makes better wine - indeed, most of the world's greatest wines are blends! The 'Dreamtime' series brings distinctive presentation and entertaining stories to celebrate the concept of blending, and bring new and exciting wine styles to the table to surprise and delight.

The rare and mystical Vulture Dog shared high intelligence with its distant canine cousins, but proved a little harder to domesticate due to its ability to fly. In the same way that nature has taken the best of these creatures to perfect the Vulture Dog, the generous soft middle palate and fruit power from Shiraz are blended with the savoury elements and tannin structure of Tempranillo to make a full flavoured yet eminently drinkable red.

Blending not only makes more interesting creatures, it also makes better wine.

WINEMAKING

Fruit was picked in the first and second week of March after a warm and dry vintage throughout South Australia - these favourable conditions resulted in fruit with intense colours and flavours. Both the Shiraz and Tempranillo grapes were fermented in open-top fermenters to allow oxygen into the blend encouraging a bright and aromatic style. The Shiraz fruit was transferred direct to stainless steel to maintain this vibrancy, while the Temp had a stint in third-fill French Oak Barriques for 10 months. Both parcels were kept separate until final blending and further bottling, the end varietal composition being 75% Shiraz and 25% Tempranillo.

TASTING NOTES

Colour: Deep ruby with magenta rim

Aroma: Lifted and fragrant, with fresh plums and raspberries and a touch of dark chocolate

Palate: Juicy palate loaded with crushed raspberries, satsuma plums, a hint of liquorice and charcuterie notes. Fine, grippy tannins and a lengthy finish.

ANALYSIS

ALC	14.5%	TA	5.54 g/L
RS	0.5 g/L	PH	3.53

