



Production:

Cabernet Sauvignon
Picked April 11th 2003,
Shiraz
Picked March 21st 2003,
Total production 2760
bottles, 360 Re- Released
2011

Colour:

Still bright Rich deep red
with hints of brick
lingering around the
meniscus.

Nose:

Spicy cedar box danish
liquorice entwined with
dominant blackcurrant
and herbal infused
summer berries. hints of
vanilla oak is balanced
against the spicy French
giving an enticingly
heady bouquet and
aroma.

Palate:

deeply mellowed rich
fruit and velvet like
textures seamlessly slide
across the palate. The
fennel seed characters of
liquice and compote of
rich red / black fruit
work wonderfully with
the intergrated oak
characters. A long
mouth filling palate that
still has plenty legs left
for the cellar

David Franz
david Franz

2003
- Cellar Release -
Alexander's Reward
Cabernet Sauvignon 60% Shiraz 40%

One of the truly great partnerships in the Barossa is the blending of Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz. Whatever the proportions and regardless of whether Cabernet or Shiraz are dominant the synergy is unmistakable. In 2003 The Cabernet was such an outstanding performer Shiraz just had to take the supporting role. I Settled on a 60% 40% blend which allowed the Cabernet fruit to be lifted and filled out by the softer riper Shiraz characters.

Over the years I have had the great fortune to be able to try some fantastic old Barossa Reds. Some of my favourite's were blends between Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz. In 2002 I realised that dream with the first Alexander's Reward. Committed to the style, in January 2006, as I was putting together the pre bottling blends of the 2003 Georgie*s Walk Cabernet and 2003 Benjamin*s Promise Shiraz version 2 was put together! I had two deliciously different wines at my disposal that I knew could really shine together.

I let my personal preference once again take the wheel and based the blend on Cabernet as the dominant wine. All I really needed to work out was how much Shiraz was going to make it shine.

Well, after a fun and somewhat hazy afternoon of bench trials I settled on a 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Shiraz blend. The varietal strength of the Cabernet in 2003 formed an amazing platform that the Shiraz, although relegated to a supporting role, none the less stamped it's fleshy authority on.

It's amazing, it only seems like yesterday but two years have passed since the blend was committed to glass. The flavours of the varietals have now integrated beautifully to form a seamless mouthful that touches every point of the palate. Where some folk manipulate fine and filter their wines to the nth degree, I firmly hold that nothing can beat the passing of time to finish a wine. So my plan (and I'm sticking to it so far) using carefully selected parcels of Cabernet and Shiraz will continue for many years to come. Each vintage it will be different as it will always reflect that year. Some years it will be a Cabernet Shiraz Blend and Others it will be a Shiraz Cabernet blend. But ultimately, if I release it, it will always it will be delicious!

