



Production:

Shiraz
Picked between March 16th
and 25th 2005.
Cabernet Sauvignon
Picked Between 19th of
March and April 4th 2005
Total production 2760
bottles

Colour:

Deep dense red with hints
of purple lingering around
the meniscus.

Nose:

spearmint perfume layered
over cassis and redcurrant
and summer berries. lifted
vanilla oak blends back
and is filled out with the
complexity of the spicy
French giving an beauti-
fully balanced nose.

Palate:

The initial richness of
the fully raspberry char-
acters are poised against
the spearmint menthol over
finely balanced against
firm oak and fruit Tan-
nins. Good acid against
the fruit sweetness,
cleanses the mouth for a
beautifully balanced
palate The middle palate
is full of the of the big
berry hit of Cabernet
supported by the leathery
richness of Shiraz. The
long palate finishes with
the deep bass complexity
brought out by extended
lees contact.

2005
Alexander's Reward
Shiraz 70%
Cabernet Sauvignon 30%

I sit, poised to release the 2005 wines celebrating my three children, searching my memory for the impressions of this year. 2005 was such an outstanding vintage for the Barossa. For me it was the incredible brightness and lythe nature of the wines. Recently I've been trying quite a few 2005 wines from mates all over South Australia and can only report... What a gorgeous bunch of wines!

One of the truly great partnerships in the Barossa is the blending of Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon. Whatever the proportions and regardless of whether Shiraz or Cabernet is dominant the synergy is unmistakable. Since the first Blend I made in 2002 I've crafted the Alexander's Reward each year with a view to and capturing the best expression that Barossa Shiraz and Cabernet together can produce. Subsiquently, each year, the blend has been different.

In 2005 The Alexander's Reward Shiraz Cabernet had the first parts of the final blend put together in the fermenter. Not a lot of the blend, mind you, but enough that I knew that for the first time, Shiraz was going to sit in the box seat and Cabernet was destined to play the supporting role. 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!

