

## **Vintage Report – 2002 Sanguine Estate Heathcote Shiraz**

### **2002 Vintage Vineyard Report**

It is the family's belief that a great wine starts with great fruit and it is for this reason that they hand nurture, pick and prune every vine on the property. Whilst their nurturing techniques remain largely the same, the weather conditions make each year challenging and different.

The 2002 growing season (commencing spring 2001) was no exception as it started with cold spring temperatures and very dry conditions. Whilst this led to very few bunches of grapes per vine, it has also produced tiny bunches and very concentrated fruit flavours that have added great complexity and depth to the 2002 Sanguine Estate Heathcote Shiraz. However, it has also meant that the yields were lower than expected thus resulting in smaller quantities of wine.

### **2002 Vintage Winemakers Report**

The grapes for the 2002 vintage were picked from three different Shiraz clones thus adding to the complexity of the wine as each clone has its own unique characters.

The fruit was then processed as small 2.5 tonne batches allowing greater control of the fermentation process and maximising colour and flavour extraction. To add further complexity, the winemakers included a small portion of whole bunches to each ferment.

Some ferments were initiated by natural (wild) yeast and allowed to ferment to dryness without intervention whilst others were inoculated. This has added different characteristics and helped to express the uniqueness of the Sanguine Estate vineyard.

The wine was matured for 12 months in predominantly one to two year old French oak with a small presence of new and one year old American oak.

### **2002 Vintage Tasting Notes**

The 2002 Sanguine Estate Heathcote Shiraz displays a mouthfilling palate with opulent ripe fruit flavours of blackberry, plum, liquorice and spice.

Excellent concentration and length with soft fine grain dry tannins. A classic Heathcote Shiraz that drinks superbly now and will reward the patient.