



mother tongue

## Mother Tongue 2017 Shiraz

**Winemaker:** Christian Canute

**Grape(s):** Shiraz

**GI:** Barossa Valley (Barossa, South Australia)

**Site(s):** Kraft Vineyard in Tanunda

**Vintage notes:** Grapes went through veraison in January and February 2017, with average spring and summer temperatures and only two short heat spikes. Two well-timed rain events in January and early February kept vines healthy but not oversaturated, with late February remaining dry. A late harvest made for a great year in both quality and quantity for the Barossa, with classically-styled, elegant, freshly-structured wines.

**Vineyard notes:** Kraft Vineyard is one of the most historic sites in the Barossa, planted by Victor Kraft in the 1930s and 1940s. Kraft was known to many as “the vineyard architect” for his ability to match grape, site, and planting style. The plot that has been leased to Mother Tongue proprietors Dennis and Debra Scholl is 2.5 acres of shiraz bushvines on loam, clay, and sandy soils.

**Winemaking:** Grapes are hand-picked and destemmed, before a light pressing into tank for native-yeast fermentation. After fermentation, the wine ages in Taransaud French oak, 2/3 of it new, for a minimum of 18 months, and sometimes much longer depending on what Christian and the Scholls think the wines need. A light fining, no filtration, and a small sulfur addition before bottling.

**Closure:** Natural cork **ABV:** 14.5%

**LEGEND tasting notes:** A wine of depth and body, but with an energetic transparency of fruit that belies its heft. On the nose, liquored and dried fruits of raspberry, boysenberry, quandong (a red native peach), and black currant. An herbal undercurrent of eucalyptus, cinnamon myrtle, and river mint. On the palate, the weight is punctuated by balanced acidity and a touch of bitterness. The oak is elegant and structuring, with notes of spice and cedar adding complexity.

**Label design:** The label is a painting by Warlimpirrnga Tjapaltjarri, considered by the Scholls the greatest living painter in Australia. Australian Aboriginal art is a great passion of the Scholls, and they have amassed the largest collection of it in the United States.

**Production size:** 80 cases

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