



EMPIRICA

by CASTELLI



EMPIRICA by Castelli 2012 UVAGGIO

VARIETY 40% Grenache/ 38% Mourvedre/ 22% Shiraz REGION Frankland River

SEASON NOTES

We have been blessed in recent years with outstanding vintages and the 2012 was no exception. The season was basically 2 vintages rolled into one. For the first time in many years there were above average winter and spring rainfalls, this combined with excellent weather over flowering allowed for even canopy development and ripening across all varieties. With fine weather and the lack of extreme conditions early in vintage the whites were able to develop flavours in sync with sugar development. Once the whites were harvested the sun gods came out allowing the reds to fully ripen both in flavour and tannin development. An excellent red gum blossom also meant that there was little disease pressure from bird damage.

WINEMAKING

Bush vine Grenache and Mourvedre were harvested by hand at optimum ripeness; the Shiraz was machine harvested slightly earlier than usual to preserve the spiciness of the variety (specifically for this wine). All parcels were vinified in small open ferments with the Grenache and Shiraz having ~10% whole bunch inclusion for aromatic lift. The ferments were hand plunged twice daily and pressed off quickly after ferment. Aged in large format oak for 18 months

TASTING NOTE

It is clear after making this wine why the Southern Rhone and Chateauneuf du Pape region goes crazy for blends of these varieties. The plump, juicy sweetness of the Grenache gives a lovely core that matches perfectly with the rustic tannins and earthiness of Mourvedre. Add a dash of spicy cool climate Shiraz to the blend and the wine provides no end of intrigue. The aim of UVaggio is to encapsulate a true regional blend, to express the uniqueness of dry grown WA bush vines and to find the ultimate balance between power and complexity. Enjoy it's richness of fruit character in its youth or wait for several years to see the savoury core come to the fore.

PICKING DATA

Date Picked:	Grenache - 3 April 2012	Mourvedre - 24 April 2012	Shiraz - 9 March 2012
Baume:	13.4	13.4	13.2
pH:	3.56	3.51	3.68
T/A:	5.1 g/L	6.5 g/L	5.8 g/L

WINE DATA

Alcohol:	14.9%
pH:	3.58
T/A:	5.4 g/L
Residual Sugar:	<1 g/L