



B & W WINES

## TASTING NOTES

### Two Hands Ares Shiraz, 2007

#### BACKGROUND

THE 'TWO HANDS' ARE MICHAEL TWELFTREE AND RICHARD MINTZ WHO FORMED THE COMPANY IN 1999 WITH THE CLEAR OBJECTIVE OF MAKING THE BEST POSSIBLE SHIRAZ BASED WINES FROM PRIZED SHIRAZ PRODUCING REGIONS WITHIN AUSTRALIA. FROM THE BEGINNING THE WINES WERE VERY WELL RECEIVED AT HOME AND ABROAD WITH A HEALTHY STREAM OF REVIEWS, CULMINATING IN 2004 WITH ROBERT M. PARKER PRONOUNCING TWO HANDS AS "THE FINEST NEGOCIANT OPERATION SOUTH OF THE EQUATOR".

SINCE THE WINERY OPENED, TWO HANDS SUCCESS HAS GONE FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH WITH NUMEROUS ACCOLADES DEFINING THE CULTURE OF THE ORGANISATION. TWO HANDS WINES WERE LISTED IN THE WINE SPECTATOR TOP 100 FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS WITH TWO LISTINGS IN THE TOP 10, MOST RECENTLY THE 2005 BELLA'S GARDEN BAROSSA VALLEY SHIRAZ AT #5 AND THE ARES VOTED ONE OF THE 25 BENCHMARK WINES OF AUSTRALIA. CONSISTENT 90+ REVIEWS FROM ROBERT PARKER JNR'S WINE ADVOCATE, STEPHEN TANZER'S INTERNATIONAL WINE CELLAR, JAMES HALLIDAY'S WINE COMPANION, WINE SPECTATOR AND THE UK DECANTER MAGAZINE IS FURTHER TESTAMENT TO THE COMPANY'S ABILITY TO CAPTURE THE TERROIR OF EACH VINEYARD AND CAREFULLY NURTURE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF EACH PARCEL.

#### WINEMAKING

CRUSHED, DESTEMMED AND FERMENTED IN 5, 7 AND 10 TONNE OPEN TOP FERMENTERS WITH REGULAR PUMP OVERS; UP TO 3 TIMES DAILY DURING PEAK FERMENTATION TO EXTRACT COLOUR AND TANNIN. FOLLOWING 7-21 DAYS OF "ON SKINS" MACERATION THE FREE RUN WAS DRAINED TO TANK WITH THE SKINS THEN PRESSED. BOTH THE FREE RUN AND PRESSINGS ARE BLENDED TO TANK AND THEN RACKED TO OAK AFTER 24 HOURS. MALOLACTIC FERMENTATION TAKES PLACE IN BARREL. MINIMAL FINING AND NON-FILTERED.

#### TASTING NOTES

COLOUR • BLACK TO THE CORE.

NOSE • A LOADED BOUQUET OF FRESH ESPRESSO, VANILLA BEAN, STEWED PLUMS, TOFFEE, TAR, CREOSOTE, ROASTED ALMONDS, SMOKY PINE NUTS, SOY AND FRESH CUT FLOWERS. THE BOUQUET IS A COMPLETE KALEIDOSCOPE OF DEEP DARK BERRY AROMAS WITH OTHER NOTES APPEARING AS THE WINE GAINS AIR.

PALATE • THIS WINE IS IMMEDIATELY THICK, COATING THE ENTIRE PALATE AND HAS AMAZING LENGTH. THE FLAVOURS ARE ALL DARK FRUITS WITH A BURST OF CHOCOLATE AND LIQUORICE, MOVING EVENLY FROM ENTRY THROUGH THE MID TO LATE PALATE. THE TANNINS REMAIN FRUIT FILLED THROUGHOUT, RESULTING IN A SOFT AND REWARDING END PALATE LEAVING A LINGERING GENEROUS MOUTH-FEEL. THIS IS ONE OF BEST ARES TO DATE AND WILL LAST A LONG TIME IN A GOOD CELLAR.

#### MATURATION

23 MONTHS MATURATION WITH THE FINAL 12 MONTHS IN 100% NEW FRENCH OAK HOGSHEADS.

#### REVIEWS

**RATING: 95 POINTS - HARVEY STEIMAN, WINE SPECTATOR - "TOP WINES" - HARVEY STEIMAN'S RECOMMENDED AUSTRALIAN REDS (2007 VINTAGE)**

"BIG AND BRAWNY, WITH A DENSE CORE OF FRESH BLUEBERRY, CURRANT, RASPBERRY AND DUSKY SPICE FLAVORS THAT SPRAWL OVER A LAYER OF PRICKLY TANNINS. IT ALL SELDS TOGETHER ON THE FINISH, SHOOTING OFF SPARKS OF ESPRESSO AND LICORICE. THE AFTERBURNERS KICK IN AND THIS SAILS OFF INTO A LONG CODA. NEEDS TIME TO SOFTEN. SHIRAZ. BEST FROM 2011 THROUGH 2019."

**RATING: 94 POINTS - JOSH RAYNOLDS, INTERNATIONAL WINE CELLAR (2007 VINTAGE)**

"OPAQUE PURPLE. EXPLOSIVE, SEDUCTIVELY PERFUMED BOUQUET EVOKES BOYSENBERRY, BLUEBERRY, SANDALWOOD, POTPOURRI, LICORICE AND ASIAN SPICES. WONDERFULLY JUICY AND LIVELY ON THE PALATE, WITH CANDIED FLOWERS AND SMOKY MINERALITY FRAMING AND LIFTING THE DARK FRUIT LIQUEUR FLAVORS. BECOMES FRESHER WITH AIR, FINISHING ON ENERGETIC NOTES OF RASPBERRY AND VIOLET PASTILLE. THIS REFUSES TO LET GO OF THE PALATE."



**VINTAGE:** 2007

**WINERY:** Two Hands (WWW.TWOHANDSWINES.COM)

**REGION:** BAROSSA VALLEY (AUSTRALIA)

**AVAILABILITY:** COMING SOON TO VINT. ONLINE

**COMPOSITION:** 100% SHIRAZ / SYRAH

**VINTAGE SCORES:** IWC194

**B & W WINES IMPORTERS OF FINE WINES AND SPIRITS** 1179a King St. West, #016 Toronto, ON, M6K 3C5

Telephone: 416.531.5553 Fax: 416.531.1320 Email: [orders@bwwines.com](mailto:orders@bwwines.com)

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RP - Wine Advocate (Robert Parker), WS - Wine Spectator, IWC - International Wine Cellar (Stephen Tanzer), JH - James Halliday, WE - Wine Enthusiast, W & S - Wine & Spirits, WA - Wine Access

