



A little whole-bunch fruit basket-pressed to old French oak, nursed to bottle preserving all the nuance of Grenache imparted by this ancient, lovely, truly fascinating, 150+ year-old site.

## *An Approach to Relaxation*

VINE VALE • BAROSSA VALLEY



Globe-trotting Master Sommelier Richard Betts and his wife Carla created this provocative old-vine Syrah to upset the status quo and prove the best Grenache in the world is from old vines grown in sand. In Barossa Valley's Vine Vale, the couple discovered the perfect ancient-vined Rza Block where head-trained, own-rooted, dry-farmed Grenache was **planted between 1860-1880**. This is one of the oldest Grenache vineyards on the planet.

Created with very little human intervention, An Approach to Relaxation showcases to wine lovers everywhere the truest possible purity and resonant character of old-vine Grenache. *'If you're into big, fruity, high-octane Barossa reds, this is not the drone you're looking for. This is old-vine, own-rooted, dry-farmed, sand-grown Grenache that explores the feminine kiss of this ancient variety. Think flowers, baking spice, vibrant red fruits, savory herbs and vibrant finish.'*

Richard and Carla also grow, harvest, and bottle a 90% Sémillon offset by the rogue element of Sauvignon Blanc. The fruit is slowly and carefully basket-pressed to build texture, sent to barrel to ferment and mature on lees for 10 months, then rested before bottling unfinned and unfiltered.

### **An Approach to Relaxation "Rza Block" *SUCETTE* Vine Vale, Barossa**

Enamored with the legendary Grenache-based wines of Châteauneuf du-Pape, Americans Richard Betts and Carla Rzeszewski ("Rza" and now Betts) found their way to Vine Vale in the Barossa Valley on a mission to locate the ultimate source. The couple eventually discovered their Rza Block, an ancient vine-scattered vineyard with deep sandy soils benefitting from consistently cool nights. To their great joy, the vines ultimately yielded Grenache in an essentialized form presenting as a 'pinot-esque' style that really turns them on. These thrilling results wouldn't be possible without the severe limitations on intervention Richard and Carla impose on Sucette, pretty much entirely described as 'whole-bunch fruit basket-pressed to old French oak barrels nursed to bottle preserving all the nuance imparted to Grenache by this ancient, lovely and fascinating site.'

*Wine & Spirits* on 2016: **93pts** *"As sommeliers, Richard Betts and Carla Rzeszewski learned to identify sexy wine, and now they are making it, from ancient, own-rooted grenache vines growing in the sands of Vine Vale. They ferment it with some whole clusters, then age it in older French oak, producing a light, frisky red with flavors that seem to build vertically rather than laying out flat."*

*Parker's WA* on 2016: **93pts** *"The 2016 Sucette is floral and fresh despite being 14.5%, as only Grenache grown in sandy soils can be. This is from vines planted in the 19th century in the Vine Vale subregion of Barossa. Rose petals and hints of orange zest accent cherry and raspberry fruit. It's medium to full-bodied, with tender tannins that turn silky and tea-like on the long, refreshing finish. It seems almost briny and zesty on the finish, giving it extra length."*



*Thank you for your time and for your interest in Connoisseur Wines.*

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