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# JOSHUA COOPER 'THE SPRINGS' SYRAH

HEATHCOTE – VICTORIA



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## THE WINE

The Springs block is located on the historic Merindoc property. Now home to some small vineyard parcels the land was previously used solely for grazing, with sheep roaming the rolling hills amongst magnificent granite boulders and outcrops. The vineyard is situated just outside the township of Tooborac, at the Southern end of the Heathcote region at around 1,200 feet altitude, the Macedon Ranges GI begins just a few miles South. This site, planted by the Shelmerdine family in 1995, is in many ways the 'anti-Heathcote' with cooler Southerly location and granite and ironstone soils (opposed to pre-Cambrian limestone) ideal for production of fine, bright and aromatic Syrah. Once hand harvested, and sorted in the vineyard, the whole clusters are transferred intact to a single wooden open vat for fermentation. Foot treading is carried out occasionally and pressing occurs after around a month on skins. The wine is then transferred to old Burgundian pieces for an élevage of 20 months, followed by 4 months in stainless steel on fine lees before bottling without fining or filtration. The only addition to the wine is a small dose of sulfur.

Smoked meats, truffles, wet soil, black plums and briar – heady, wild, savory scents. Silky and light across the palate, tinged with frisky acidity, a defining factor amongst the washy, red fruit flavors. Gets a touch herbal and then wild in more game and earth and forest floor in the flavor profile, finishing lightly chewy and a touch dusty. It's enjoyable as an expression, a nice tussle between the sweet ripeness of the region and the lighter, fresher expression crafted here. Interesting and yet still delicious.

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## THE STATS

<b>Vintage</b>	2015
<b>Grapes</b>	100% Syrah
<b>Viticulture</b>	Certified Organic
<b>Soil Type</b>	Ironstone Riddled Granitic Loam over Hardened Granite
<b>Vine Age</b>	19-years-old
<b>Fermentation</b>	Native - 100% whole cluster
<b>Skin Contact</b>	Four Weeks
<b>Aging</b>	20 months in seasoned Laurent Burgundy 228mL pièce
<b>Alcohol</b>	14%
<b>Production</b>	125 cases

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## THE PRESS

None