

Munda Wines



THE AUSTRALIAN

Friday, August 4, 2023

Country the touchstone for Munda's core beliefs

By JAMES HALLIDAY

Munda Wines is a majority Indigenous-owned business, with verified Supply Nation status. Director/co-owner Paul Vandenberg comes from Ceduna, part of the Wirangu and Kokatha people in whose language munda means land or country. Their aim is to tell the story of the land and processes that have produced the wine they have partnered with. "As Aboriginal people we don't believe in owning the munda," he says. "We believe munda is our mother and giver, and that if we care for munda, munda will care for us. There are over 500 countries/language groups on this munda we now call Australia ... We explore [grape] varieties that are ideally suited to that Aboriginal country, and that have long-term sustainability to work in harmony with munda."

The adoption of organic and biodynamic management of vineyards is a touchstone for Munda's core beliefs. I'm not sure the natural wine approach of banning the addition of all substances in the vinification processes should be hailed, but that's another story. What is clear is that the matching of variety and soil, picking the grapes at the right time and managing the fermentation with light hands give the wine the best chance of expressing its munda, and doing so sustainably.

95



2022 Munda Wines Ngadjuri + Peramangk Country Grenache

RATING: 95
DRINK TO: 2030

From 40-year-old vines. A delicious, perfumed grenache that's laden with red and blue fruits. Fresh and fine, able to mature well, but it's hard to see any need other than drinking it at the first opportunity, albeit respecting its inherent quality. 3600 bottles made.

96



2021 Munda Wines Kurna Country Syrah

RATING: 96
DRINK TO: 2035

As flawless as its siblings. Deep crimson-purple hue, with black cherries and a fine-spun net of tannins. This is such a lovely syrah, its Blewitt Springs origin shouting from the rooftops. Length and balance just to start. 9000 bottles made.

95



2022 Munda Wines Walgalu Country Chardonnay

RATING: 95
DRINK TO: 2030

Barrel fermented and matured for eight months in used French oaks. Transparent quartz white. Has finesse stamped all over it and the balance and length to slowly gain depth to its super-tight flavours of grapefruit, white peach and Granny Smith apples. A seriously good wine in the making. 6000 bottles made.

James Halliday
THE AUSTRALIAN MAGAZINE

Halliday