

# J.R.O AFFLATUS



## Single Vineyard Shiraz 2014

McLaren Vale, Shiraz (100%)

### The Name

This vineyard was one of the original plantings on the land Joseph Rowe Osborn purchased in 1912. Despite being teetotal, he was inspired to purchase vineyards for his family, a choice that continues to reap benefits today. You could say it was his afflatus (an impulse of creative power or inspiration).

### The Vintage

The ripening period for the 2014 season was not without challenge, but on the whole it seemed that for every punch nature threw at us there was a counter punch. The extremely dry and windy conditions experienced through spring were softened by the heavy winter rainfalls we had experienced leading up to that period. Similarly the heatwave experienced in January was immediately followed by a deluge in early February. The cool weather that followed the rains helped to slow the ripening process, which had rocketed during the hot spell. Picking went on hold for two weeks as the vines gently ticked away at their job, with flavour development catching back up to sugar ripeness. The wines themselves are exceeding expectations, given the difficult nature of the growing season. In summary, a testing vintage to date that has shown off McLaren Vale's innate ability to truly counter some fairly tough conditions. From a quality perspective in regards to Shiraz, these conditions produced big concentrated wines with incredible colour and flavour.

### The Winemaking

Small batches of grapes are gently crushed and then transferred to five tonne headed down open fermenters. These batches remain separate until final blending. Foot treading is undertaken two thirds of the

way through fermentation. The wine is then basket pressed and transferred to a mixture of new and used French oak barriques to complete fermentation. The barrel ferments are aged on lees, and there is no racking until final blending. Only the best Shiraz blocks from each vintage are selected to be part of the Amazing Sites range.

### The Characteristics

This is a wine of undeniable intensity, tightly wound in its youth yet destined for a long life. Hints of mulberries, violets, and game appear on the nose, promising further aromatic development with age. With time, it reveals a dense ironstone-like core enveloped in blackberry fruits and ripples of dark, bitter chocolate. An understated scent of dried herbs contrasts its brooding nature, while mineral tannins and punchy acidity enhance its ferrous character. The sandy soils impart elegance and grace to the palate, featuring meat, dark chocolate, dark olive, and minerals balanced by long, chalky tannins.

### The Vineyard

**District** Beautiful View  
**Altitude** 93m above sea level  
**Soil** Very shallow sandy loam on limestone and clay  
**Aspect** Eastern with slight undulation  
**Year planted** 1910  
**Size** 0.5 hectares

The top soil has blown off, leaving the vines to live in fairly tight marly limestone clay, producing a profoundly flavourful and structured wine.

Harvest dates	3 Mar	Alcohol	14.5%
Residual sugar	1.0 g/l	Titrateable acid	7.4
pH	3.41	Oak maturation	20 months
Chief Winemaker	Chester Osborn	Senior Winemaker	Jack Walton