

# THE BLIND TIGER



## Single Vineyard Shiraz 2014

McLaren Vale, Shiraz (100%)

### The Name

This vineyard was planted in the 1920's, a time of speakeasy clubs like The Blind Tiger that thrived during prohibition. Thankfully those times have passed but other legacies, like this vineyard, remain.

### 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 wine is a showstopper, showcasing opulent plum, mulberry, and sweet berry fruit with a juicy, long-lasting finish. A rich bouquet of cassia, five spice, and pepper evolves into roasted beetroot, fennel, and floral notes. The deep Maslin Sands contribute elegant tannins and a subtle earthiness. The old vines add complexity with dark olive, soot, and a gamey twist. With a harmonious balance of fruit, tannin, and acid, this wine is both complex and crowd-pleasing, perfect for those who appreciate depth and finesse.

### The Vineyard

**District** Blewitt Sands  
**Altitude** 154m above sea level  
**Soil** Sand over hard clay  
**Aspect** Western  
**Year planted** 1925  
**Size** 2.4 hectares

The 154m altitude and the sandy soil makes a particularly fruit driven wine. The western aspect of this site and the low yields of these beautiful old vines help increase the concentration of the wine. No new oak is required to give this wine 'wood characteristics' as it already has an amazing vine wood character.

Harvest dates	1 Mar	Alcohol	15.0%
Residual sugar	1.4 g/l	Titrateable acid	7.2
pH	3.49	Oak maturation	20 months
Chief Winemaker	Chester Osborn	Senior Winemaker	Jack Walton