

THE EIGHT IRON



Single Vineyard Shiraz 2014

McLaren Vale, Shiraz (100%)

The Name

Shaped like a golf club on a steep south facing block, the vineyard is roughly as wide as a decent hit with an eight iron.

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

Prior to airing, the Eight Iron is tightly wound, dominated by ironstone, roasted meat, earth, and charred notes. As the wine breathes and relaxes, it releases a second wave of fruit—blueberry and spice—perhaps attributed to the cool air drainage it experiences during the ripening season. The mouthfeel is powerful, the flavor profile concentrated and complex, and the acid line fresh. Maturation has smoothed any hard edges of the ferrous tannins, which, while still a feature, now present quite seamlessly. There is immense promise in this wine for a long and rewarding life ahead.

The Vineyard

District Beautiful View
Altitude 70m above sea level
Soil Shallow grey loam over limestone
Aspect Southern
Year planted 1960
Size 3.3 hectares

This vineyard has shallow grey loam soil with underlying geology of 35 to 56 million year old Blanche Point Formation with a Tortachilla Limestone base.

Harvest dates	23 Feb	Alcohol	14.5%
Residual sugar	0.6 g/l	Titrateable acid	6.9
pH	3.51	Oak maturation	20 months
Chief Winemaker	Chester Osborn	Senior Winemaker	Jack Walton