

THE WILD PIXIE

Shiraz 2017

McLaren Vale, Shiraz (94%) Roussanne (6%)

The Name

In 2006, Chester added a small parcel of Roussanne to The Stump Jump White. A wine journalist described him as a 'wild pixie' for concocting such a crazy blend. Taking that as a compliment, Chester went on to make an even more audacious blend with Roussanne, this time combining it with Shiraz.

The Vintage

A healthy winter and plenty of spring rains set the vines up very well. Bud burst was on time, but very cool for the first part of spring. Shoots grew to 5 or 6 inches long and then stopped for a month. Flowering was quite late, by three weeks, which meant a late start to harvest, and long, slow ripening periods. The summer rains stopped in mid-January, so disease pressure was low. It was very dry from February to April, with only a few millimetres of rain. Days were mild with a lot of cool nights, the first few weeks of April was around two degrees hotter than usual, which help that last bits of fruit to ripen. Overall, a great vintage with minimal disease pressure and above average crop levels.

The Winemaking

Small batches of grapes are gently crushed and then transferred to open fermenters, where the Roussanne and Shiraz are co-fermented. Foot treading is undertaken two thirds of the way through fermentation, the wine is basket pressed and transferred to old French oak to complete fermentation and mature. The barrel ferments are aged on lees, there is no racking until final blending and no fining or filtration.

The Characteristics

This wine has an intense, powerful nose. There's loads of mulberries and blackberries and a sprinkling of white pepper. The palate is thick and dense with dark fruits and roasted meats. It concludes with chewy tannin, a heap of spice and a good lick of acidity. This wine is best aged for several more years before consumption.



Harvest dates	15 Mar - 10 Apr	Alcohol	14.5%
Residual sugar	1.1 g/l	Titrateable acid	6.6
pH	3.49	Oak maturation	12 months
Chief Winemaker	Chester Osborn	Senior Winemaker	Jack Walton

