



<i>Harvest date</i>	<i>5 April</i>
<i>Alcohol</i>	<i>14.9%</i>
<i>Residual sugar</i>	<i>2.9 g/l</i>
<i>Titrateable acid</i>	<i>6.5</i>
<i>pH</i>	<i>3.33</i>
<i>Oak maturation</i>	<i>20 months</i>
<i>Chief Winemaker</i>	<i>Chester Osborn</i>
<i>Senior Winemaker</i>	<i>Jack Walton</i>

The Blind Tiger Shiraz 2011

Single Vineyard McLaren Vale Shiraz

Part of the McLaren Vale Scarce Earth Project

The Name

This vineyard was planted in the 1920s, 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.

Amazing Sites

The Vineyard

<i>District</i>	<i>Blewitt Springs</i>	<i>Altitude</i>	<i>150m above sea level</i>
<i>Soil</i>	<i>Deep sand over clay</i>	<i>Aspect</i>	<i>Western, East/West rows</i>
<i>Year planted</i>	<i>1925</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>2.4 hectares</i>

The altitude and sandy soil make 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.

The Vintage

There was ample winter and spring rain which provided good sub soil moisture and resulted in healthy canopies and good vigour. Summer conditions were very mild. Grapes ripened gracefully with only a few small rain episodes, enough to keep the vines fresh and vibrant. Rainfall was only a little over average for the first months of the year.

The Winemaking

Small batches of grapes are crushed gently 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 and old American 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

A complete wine in many ways. The deep Maslin Sands contribute an impressive mixed flowery bouquet, roses and violets, along with lovely spice notes. The sootiness and complexity can be attributed to the very old age of the vines.

Wines from these soils can tend to be very elegant, but these particular vines have given us a wine of great opulence and seamless, mouth coating tannins. While the tannins are bountiful, they are accompanied by beautifully, fragrant fruits that together create a gratifyingly long finish. All in all, a bright wine with a lovely element of earth and soot.