



<i>Harvest date</i>	<i>1 March</i>
<i>Alcohol</i>	<i>15%</i>
<i>Residual sugar</i>	<i>1.1 g/l</i>
<i>Titrateable acid</i>	<i>7.1</i>
<i>pH</i>	<i>3.50</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 Eight Iron Shiraz 2012

Single Vineyard McLaren Vale Shiraz

Part of the McLaren Vale Scarce Earth Project

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.

Amazing Sites

The Vineyard

<i>District</i>	<i>Beautiful View</i>	<i>Altitude</i>	<i>70m above sea level</i>
<i>Soil</i>	<i>Shallow grey limestone</i>	<i>Aspect</i>	<i>Southern East/West rows</i>
<i>Year planted</i>	<i>1960</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>3.3 hectares</i>

The geology of this vineyard is 35 to 56 million year old Blanche Point Formation with a Tortachilla Limestone base. It is located on the Osborn property that is also home to the winery, cellar door and restaurant.

The Vintage

A wet summer and winter in set the vines up perfectly for the 2012 vintage. Spring and summer were drier than normal, resulting in lower fruit yields. A small heat burst just prior to veraison assured a solid colour change, small berries and pronounced tannins in the grapes. The red wines from this vintage are black, solid and quite structured, the biggest year for some time; not oily but definitely gutsy.

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

The Eight Iron is a tightly knitted wine that requires a little coaxing to get to know its true character. Be this through natural evolution over time or via a healthy amount of aeration, you can start to see the finer nuances that make this vineyard such a consistent performer.

Notes of anise and red liquorice are gently accompanied by spicy pepper and pretty lavender overtones, enticingly complemented by complex compost and earthy flavours. There is an ironstone like core of fruit that pulses through the entire palate that truly defines this wine. The vibrant line of acid and fine grainy tannins conjure memories of crunching into fresh pomegranate seeds. Not an overwhelmingly rich wine in youth, but with a concentration and structure that hint towards a long and expressive life.