

THE DERELICT VINEYARD

Grenache 2017

McLaren Vale, Grenache (100%)



The Name

At a time when Grenache was considered unfashionable, Chester acquired many old bush vine, overgrown and abandoned vineyards. These vineyards still have a slightly dishevelled appearance, but they are back producing very low yields of exceptional fruit.

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 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 old French barriques to complete fermentation. The barrel ferments are aged on lees, there is no racking until final blending and no fining or filtration.

The Characteristics

Beautifully expressive in its youth. Fruit forward on the nose with rhubarb, raspberries, and spice, but also a savoury, cedar woody, bramble, sea spray note. Medium bodied. Perfectly pitched acid and fine supple tannins. Great length. Fine and long. Reasonably restrained but wonderfully fresh. Suitable to be enjoyed young or in the short to medium term.



Harvest dates	22 Mar - 10 Apr	Alcohol	14.0%
Residual sugar	1.9 g/L	Titratable acid	6.6
pH	3.46	Oak maturation	12 Months
Chief Winemaker	Chester Osborn	Senior Winemaker	Jack Walton