

THE WILD PIXIE

Shiraz 2013

McLaren Vale, Shiraz (92%) Roussanne (8%)



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 warm and dry spring and summer followed by further dry conditions throughout harvest meant a number of things. Firstly disease pressure was negligible, the vast majority of fruit being very clean. Secondly yields were down. Finally ripening happened relatively quickly. From a quality perspective in regards to Shiraz, these conditions produced wines of incredible colour and flavour. Dark, brooding wines with great volumes of fruit and layers of chewy, velvety tannin structure. Big, concentrated wines but beautifully balanced.

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 a mixture of old French and American 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

A little patience is required to coax the aromas out of this wine, but once the flood gates open there is no holding them back. Typical of The Wild Pixie the characters are dark and exotic. Blackberry, clove, liquorice, bitter chocolate, earth and a hint of ash. The palate is full of grunt and power with the beefy black fruits matched by a ferrous like core of tannin. A real conversation stopper and a wine that promises a long and prosperous future.



Harvest dates	18 Feb - 17 Apr	Alcohol	14.6%
Residual sugar	1.3 g/l	Titrateable acid	7.2
pH	3.45	Oak maturation	18 months
Chief Winemaker	Chester Osborn	Senior Winemaker	Jack Walton