



<i>Harvest dates</i>	<i>11 Feb - 30 Mar</i>
<i>Alcohol</i>	<i>13.8%</i>
<i>Residual sugar</i>	<i>3.3g/l</i>
<i>Titrateable acid</i>	<i>6.4</i>
<i>pH</i>	<i>3.43</i>
<i>Oak maturation</i>	<i>18 months</i>
<i>Chief Winemaker</i>	<i>Chester Osborn</i>
<i>Senior Winemaker</i>	<i>Jack Walton</i>

The Love Grass Shiraz 2010

McLaren Vale, Shiraz (90%) Other Varieties (10%)

The Name

Lovegrass is a weed that grows in the vineyards and its sticky flowers affectionately attach themselves to vineyard workers' socks. This Shiraz will linger with you in the same way that the flowers do!



The Vintage

Above average autumn rains set the vines up well. There was some heat during flowering which reduced crop levels, but with no ill-effects on quality. There was some more warm weather in January as the reds were going through veraison, this did no damage, but did encourage an early start to vintage. The day time temperatures were mild through out ripening with mild to cool nights.

The Winemaking

Small batches of grapes are gently crushed and then transferred to open fermenters. Foot treading is undertaken two thirds of the way through fermentation, the wine is basket pressed and then aged in French oak for up to 18 months.

The Characteristics

Initially the nose is dominated by lifted Shiraz notes of sweet, purple plums and rich, dark liquorice. As the wine opens, the cocktail of varieties clinging to the Shiraz become more evident. First we see pretty, perfumed notes evolving, think musk and violets. Then the more exotic aromatics of warm, Indian spices and freshly turned earth.

The complexity is just as provocative on the palate. A lovely cooked rhubarb character adds sweetness but vibrant acidity at the same time. The sweet fruits are balanced out with restraining savoury notes of cured meat and black olive.

The true feature of this wine lies in the firm, yet fine, chalky tannins which meld together with an ironstone like acidity and a long mineral finish, all of which leaves your mouth salivating in anticipation of that next taste. Once you arrive at the point, the hardest decision then becomes whether to sniff or sip next.