

# THE LOVE GRASS



## Shiraz 2012

*McLaren Vale, Shiraz (85%) Other Varieties (15%)*

### 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

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

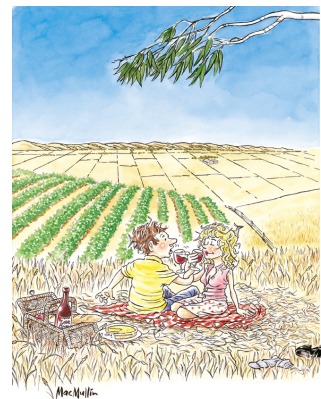
Small batches of grapes are gently crushed and then transferred to open fermenters. Foot treading is undertaken two thirds of the way through fermentation, the wine is basket pressed and then aged in French oak for up to 18 months.

### 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 and vibrant acidity at the same time. The sweet fruits are balanced 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.



Harvest dates	10 Feb-3 Apr	Alcohol	14.4%
Residual sugar	0.7 g/l	Titratable acid	7.1
pH	3.50	Oak maturation	18 months
Chief Winemaker	Chester Osborn	Senior Winemaker	Jack Walton