



SHINGLEBACK

2018 SHINGLEBACK 'D BLOCK' RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

JOHN PETRUCCI VINEYARD

At a meeting prior to the 2005 vintage it was clear that the passion and dedication that John Petrucci has for his vineyard matched our own love of the soil and viticultural and winemaking philosophies. We are privileged to be entrusted with a small section of his vineyard that consistently produces low yields of intensely varietal and distinctive Cabernet Sauvignon.

VINTAGE NOTE

After a dry start to winter we had good rainfall, ending up 10% above the long term averages, flushing and filling soil profiles to saturation. Although a mid-September bud burst was later than recent vintages it was in line with long term averages. Spring rainfall was well below average, resulting in low disease pressure. Average day and night spring temperatures were close to record highs, resulting in steady vine shoot growth, catching up some ground after the later bud burst.

We had 10mm of rain on December 1st and another 15mm on December 15th, freshening the vines during early berry development. With only 6mm of rain in January and 5mm in February summer rainfall ended up only two thirds of the average. Drier and warmer than average conditions continued through March and April resulting in a disease free and orderly progression to vintage, allowing time for the potential of each batch of grapes to be maximised in the winery.

Harvest started with Semillon on February 6th and our McLaren Vale white and rosé blocks were all off by February 19th when the first Davey Estate Shiraz was picked. Shiraz harvest, other than a small parcel for fortified, was completed on March 24th and Cabernet Sauvignon soon after on March 29th, just before Easter. Mataro, the last of the Grenache and Shiraz for fortification were harvested after Easter with all fruit in by April 5th.

The 2018 white and rosé wines are richly flavoured with good length. The reds are full bodied and deeply coloured, showing intense fruit flavour with big round chewy tannins. Simply an outstanding vintage with the promise to be rated as one of the great years for McLaren Vale.

WINEMAKING

Two great McLaren Vale Cabernet Sauvignon blocks combine harmoniously; one, a Reynella clone planted east west in 1982 on loam and the other, a CW44 clone planted north south in 1999 on red clay. Gentle cap management, through traditional open fermentation, protects and nurtures the unique qualities of the terroir. Very fine grained French oak hogsheads

are used to allow a long, slow maturation of the wine and subtle oak integration. A combination of new and 1 to 6 year-old oak barrels, crafted by select coopers to our requirements are used to create nuances and diversity of flavour.

- GA & LS Petrucci Hill Block (1982) Cabernet Sauvignon (Reynella clone)
- Davey Estate Block P (1999) Cabernet Sauvignon (CW44 clone)

TASTING NOTE

Dense purple-red. Fragrant cassis aromas with nuances of mint chocolate and olive tapenade. Blackberry and blueberry flavours flow through the medium to full bodied palate, balanced harmoniously with fine-grained tannins and subtle notes of French oak. A contemporary McLaren Vale Cabernet Sauvignon that expresses the synergy of this noble variety, the terroir and my personal winemaking philosophy.

BOTTLING

Alcohol: 14.4%
TA: 7.1 g/L
pH: 3.63

VARIETY

100% Cabernet Sauvignon

ACCOLADES

GOLD MEDAL –
2020 McLaren Vale Wine Show, class 16

SILVER MEDAL -
2019 Halliday Cabernet Challenge
2019 NZ International Wine Show, class 15a
2020 Perth Royal Wine Awards, class 21
2020 Decanter World Wine Awards, UK
2020 NZ International Wine Show, class 15a

5-STARs, EQUAL TOP IN CATEGORY –
Winestate Magazine, Cabernet & Bordeaux
Challenge X, October 2020

