MINISTRY OF CLOUDS

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2022 SHIRAZ

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McLAREN VALE

Sand & Stones may break my bones, but geology will never hurt me...

Born of one of the most ancient and geologically diverse wine regions in the world, McLaren Vale, this wine is made from Australia's most ubiquitous grape – Shiraz. With the aim that this Shiraz reflects our view of the region, we combine fruit from a Blewitt Springs deep sandy vineyard, and a younger more structured and fragrant parcel from the shallow old bedrock of our own Onkaparinga Rocks vineyard in the hope of a more modern, slender and youthful expression.

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Creation

2022 was a relatively cool vintage which allowed gradual flavour development. We combined four separate picks from our own Onkaparinga Rocks vineyard, and a sandy dry grown Blewitt Springs site. Approximately 17% whole bunches were retained in the total blend, the rest gently destemmed to preserve whole berries for balance. Of the 12 separate ferments all were wild, caps were wet twice daily to assess flavour and colour extraction. Maceration on skins was extended up to 6 weeks for some parcels to build complexity and tannin line. After a gentle basket press, the wine was matured for 6 months in a combination of French oak hogsheads, puncheons, demi muids, foudres, and a concrete egg.

Composition

An exercise in slender power, bringing early picked McLaren Vale Shiraz characters exhibited by cool blue and red fruit with layers of coal dust and earth to entice, supported by a gentle oak creaminess, which progresses to the palate exhibiting a deep fruit weight kept bright, nervy, and fleshy and filed down nicely by a fine and mineral tannin line.

Consumption

Ideal serving temperature is 16 °C... God forbid a Shiraz that won't dominate all food placed before it. Try with spicy Catalan Fish Stew with grilled rye and aioli. Cool cellaring between 5 years to 8 years will be rewarded.

VARIETIES: 100% SHIRAZ

ALCOHOL: 14.3%

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