

LongLine

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LongLiners

Spring 2014

Issue #1

WELCOME

To our Longliners, welcome to our inaugural Longliner's newsletter. It comes ready for spring 2014 right as the last of the Grenache and Shiraz are pruned with many varieties already bursting with green shoots in McLaren Vale. We have had a long cold winter with only average rainfall and a dry August and September so some rain will be welcomed as the vines get going ready for vintage 2015.

The last 6 or so months have been a hectic, crazy time for Martine and I but thoroughly enjoyable for us as we have been presenting our wines to people across the country. We have had fantastic feedback from some of the country's best restaurants, independent bottle shops and from wine writers so that has made the challenge of establishing a small wine business that little bit easier. We are loving every minute of it, even labelling our Shiraz by hand. We trust that you enjoy Longline wines as much as we do making the wines from some of the best vineyards in McLaren Vale and Adelaide Hills.

Warm Regards

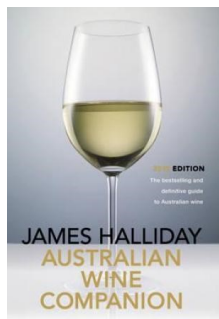


Giving dad a helping hand as we crush our dry grown bush vine Grenache for the 2014 Bimini Twist Rose

VINTAGE 2014

The story of vintage 2014 is one that is told in 2 quite distinct chapters. The vintage started with good growth but with a cold period as the vines flowered, which resulted in a poor to average fruit set and potential yield. The majority of the remainder of the growing season was kind, except for an extreme heat period in late January which had all in McLaren Vale and the Hills very nervous. Some early McLaren Vale Shiraz was sun damaged but for our Blewitt Springs, Clarendon and Onkaparinga Gorge fruit, which ripens much later, we were still heartened by what we saw.

What followed was, in my 20 plus vintages both in Australia and abroad, quite simply the most even ripening and relaxed vintage I have ever been involved with. Warm, yet mild summer and autumn days allowed the fruit to be harvested exactly when we thought the flavours and tannins were just right. The resultant wines show the benefit of a long slow ripening season with Shiraz the star closely followed by Grenache. The wines have wonderful intensity, but still show the balance and personality of the vineyards.



Martine and I, as a new winery to James Halliday's Wine Companion, were overwhelmed to be awarded 5 stars and wonderful reviews. Here is what James had to say:



"Outstanding winery capable of producing wines of very high quality, and did so this year."

2015 JAMES HALLIDAY Australian Wine Companion

96 POINTS

Blood Knot McLaren Vale Adelaide Hills Shiraz 2012

"The percentage contribution of the two regions isn't specified, but the wine is exceptionally rich, complex and deeply layered, the flavours running through black fruits, licorice and black pepper. Given the intensity of the fruit, it is not surprising that the oak seems to make little impression, the tannins also swallowed by the fruit, but there nonetheless."

94 POINTS

Albright McLaren Vale Grenache 2012

"From the Onkaparinga Gorge and Clarendon districts of McLaren Vale. It has the bright crimson colour, generous array of red fruits, and fine, but persistent tannins so typical of top quality McLaren Vale Grenache in a great vintage. The oak is not obtrusive, allowing the varietal expression free play."

BULL LANE

We have been racking our brains as to the benefits of having a small wine business and we have found one. We get to talk about a winery or producer whom we admire, whose wines we know you will love and that we love drinking.

Bull Lane is a tiny producer from Heathcote Victoria which make a complex, richly flavoured Shiraz, made by the incredibly talented & humorous duo of Simon Osicka (Winemaker) and Alison Phillips (Viticulturist). We think it's a wine worth seeking out.

I had the pleasure of working with both Simon and Alison in a previous life and when they weren't making me laugh, they were a great source of knowledge. Check them out.



2014 Bimini Twist Grenache Rose

\$20.00

***New Release**



Our inaugural Rose is sourced from a 50 year old dry grown bush vine Grenache block at Blewitt Springs. The Bimini Twist blends 2 winemaking techniques by immediately pressing salmon coloured rose with the slightly more obscure technique of full skins fermentation and barrel maturation for 3 months. The result is a beautifully aromatic Rose with wonderful texture and crisp acid.

2013 Albright Grenache

\$26.00

***New Release**



It's true that 2012 as a vintage is a hard act to follow, but we think our 2013 Albright is spot on for the style that we want to make. Classic red fruits and spice-laden Grenache with long fine tannins. Sourced from the Onkaparinga Gorge and an old block to the south of the McLaren Vale Township. Both vineyards are dry grown and over 50 years of age, and display a fabulous expression of McLaren Vale Grenache.

2012 Blood Knot Shiraz

\$26.00



Bloodknot is the blend of what we think is the best subregion of McLaren Vale, Blewitt Springs, combined with an amazing vineyard at Hope Forest in the south of the Adelaide Hills. Both highly perfumed blocks with the rich powerful fruit of Blewitt Springs balanced by the 1/3 addition of Adelaide Hills spice and structure.