

## Dear Friends,

It's that time of the year where it is hard not to be excited by what is to come. Early Spring brings bare vines, pruned through the winter months, to life with bursting buds and shoots rapidly growing. There are even a few bunches just starting to show prior to flowering. It's a special time of the year but it's also a great time to see the vineyards and how they have been set up for the growing season to come. In some ways they are a little naked and you really get a great idea of the quality of the vineyard. A well pruned and managed vineyard through winter is a small piece of the overall puzzle, but it's a great way to start what we are all optimistic will be a great vintage to come.

Speaking of vintage, it seems a long time ago that we picked, fermented, pressed and put to barrel our 2015 wines. The early low cropping vintage wines look very promising as they have just finished fermentation as we write this. Bright vibrant fruits with long fine tannin structures and mouth-watering acidity from fruit sourced from the coolest regions in McLaren Vale look great. We look forward to bringing these wines to you in the years to come.

Warm Regards

Paul and Martine Carpenter

## The Demasi Vineyard

The backbone for our Blood Knot Shiraz is Tom and Carolyn Demasi's vineyard at Blewitt Springs. One of the most colourful characters in the Vale, Tom is miner turned chicken, beef and lamb farmer, but most importantly to Longline is his 2 hectare vineyard.

Tom grew up in Broken Hill and when he was 18 went underground mining silver, lead and zinc, a job that he continued for 28 years. Having decided that an agricultural pursuit was more to his liking, Tom and Carolyn packed their bags for McLaren Vale settling on a 20 hectare cattle property at Blewitt Springs. Their 20 year old Shiraz vineyard was planted by Tom and Carolyn themselves and apart from the odd squirt of water as young vines from the water cart they are dry grown. The vines thrive in the deep sands over clay and ironstone in one of the coolest parts of the Vale.

Tom's Vineyard is a beauty and produces powerful yet restrained Shiraz with classic Blewitt Springs character. A vineyard where a vintage visit is guaranteed a number of classic stories and lines from a great character. We feel lucky to play with their fruit each year.

## Meet one of our growers



Paul and Tom enjoying the Spring sunshine in the vineyard

# NEW RELEASES

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## 2015 Bimini Twist Grenache Rose

Our inaugural Rose last year was a hit and found its way into a host of restaurants for the warmer part of the year including the iconic Victory Hotel where proprietor Doug Goven poured it all summer. We haven't changed too much for 2015 with fruit coming from a single site in Blewitt Springs and it has produced a wine with aromatic bright Grenache perfume with juicy fruit and savoury notes. It's dry and complex and it's the type of Rose we love to drink.



## 2014 Albright Grenache

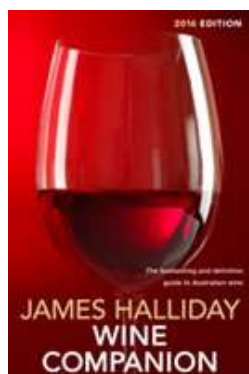
The vintage of 2014 was very kind for old vine Grenache with a very even and long ripening period which has resulted in wines with great flavour and fine tannins. Open fermented on skins for 4 weeks and matured in large old French oak barrels for 9 months prior to bottling. The 2014 Albright is bursting with red fruit flavour, savoury complex character and fine tannins. Definitely medium bodied and made in an elegant style, the 2014 Albright, we think, is the best we have made thus far.



## 2013 Blood Knot Shiraz

Blood Knot is a blend of 2 vineyards from Blewitt Springs (Demasi Vineyard) and Hope Forest (James Vineyard). Both sites produce wines with amazing fruit brightness and spicy Shiraz character. Blewitt Springs definitely is the more powerful and generous, giving the Blood Knot its rich fruit, whilst Hope Forest is perfumed and full of spice with fine tannins. The 60% McLaren Vale/ 40% Adelaide Hills is a blend highlighting the best of both regions.

**James Halliday's Wine Companion tasting note:** *A synergistic 60/40% blend from McLaren Vale and Adelaide Hills, the outcome very impressive, iron fist in velvet glove stuff. The beautifully presented black cherry, blackberry and spice fruits seem more closely linked to Adelaide Hills than McLaren Vale, but that's not worth debating given the sheer class, balance and length of the palate. A ridiculous bargain. 96 Points*



## 2016 JAMES HALLIDAY Australian Wine Companion



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

We were thrilled to be named as a 5 star winery again this year in James Halliday's 2016 Wine Companion.

**96 POINTS** Blood Knot McLaren Vale Adelaide Hills Shiraz 2013

**95 POINTS** Wicker Basket Adelaide Hills Shiraz 2013 (coming soon)

**94 POINTS** Albright McLaren Vale Grenache 2013

**94 POINTS** Bimini Twist McLaren Vale Grenache Rose 2014