

THE GATE

BY SHINGLEBACK

2018 CABERNET SHIRAZ McLAREN VALE

DAVEY ESTATE VINEYARD

The Davey Estate Vineyard is located in Whites Valley, at the southern end of the acclaimed McLaren Vale Wine region in South Australia. Kym and John Davey planted & nurture their family-owned and sustainably managed estate vineyard on land their grandfather purchased in the 1950's. Their goal is to produce high-quality, single vineyard wines. Modern viticultural practices that minimise work to the soil & encourage a balanced environment are used. Superior fruit is grown by managing canopies, hand-pruning, precise deficit irrigation & integrated pest management.

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 15 mm on December 15th, freshening the vines during early berry development. With only 6 mm of rain in January and 5 mm 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 NOTE

Generations of Australian winemakers have appreciated how well these two great varieties can work together. The regal Cabernet Sauvignon's fragrant aromatics and tight tannic structure is expanded by, and gives focus to, the juicy generosity of the Shiraz. Cabernet Sauvignon from two distinct blocks has been selected to lead the chosen Shiraz in this classic Australian blend, creating a worthy partner for our highly awarded Gate Shiraz. Varietal clones selected and the soil in which they grow add further dimension and depth to the blend.

Variety	Clone Planted	Soil Type	Vineyard
Cabernet Sauvignon	Reynella Selection	Loam	GA & LS Petrucci - Hill block (1982)
Cabernet Sauvignon	CW44	Red Clay	Davey Estate - Block P (est. 1999)
Shiraz	1654	Grey Clay	Davey Estate - Block E (est. 1995)

Each component has been crafted separately in small open fermenters followed by 13 months maturation of the Cabernet in predominantly 1 to 4-year-old French oak hogsheads and the Shiraz in 6-year-old oak. A further 12 months bottle maturation integrates the wine prior to release.

TASTING NOTE FROM JOHN DAVEY, WINEMAKER

Vibrant black cherry red. Blackcurrant and blueberry Cabernet aromas meld with the blackberry and savoury earthiness of the Shiraz. Moreish chewy fruit tannins, along with a slate-like minerality restrain the luscious dark berry mid-palate. This estate reserve wine is a classic, vibrant and fruit-forward McLaren Vale Cabernet Shiraz from the excellent 2018 vintage.

VARIETAL BLEND

51% Cabernet Sauvignon
49% Shiraz

BOTTLING

Alc: 14.3%

TA: 6.8 g/L

pH: 3.54

ACCOLADES

Trophy - Best Classic Australian Blend
2020 McLaren Vale Wine Show

Gold Medal

95 pts 2020 McLaren Vale Wine Show, class 24
2020 Concours International des Cabernets, France

Silver Medal

2021 International Wine Challenge, UK (90 pts)
2020 Perth Royal Wine Awards, Class 24
2020 Decanter World Wine Awards, UK
2020 NZ International Wine Show, class 19

