

# 2008 PENNY'S HILL McLAREN VALE 'THE SKELETON KEY' SHIRAZ



A DELIBERATELY LONG-AGED EXPRESSION OF THE CUMULATIVE BEST OF OUR McLAREN VALE VINEYARD, "THE SKELETON KEY" WILL BENEFIT FROM CELLARING AND CAREFUL BOTTLE AGING BEFORE IT IS 'UNLOCKED', A COUPLE OF YEARS AFTER THE VINTAGE FROM WHICH IT WAS COMMITTED.

**WINEMAKER:** BEN RIGGS

**VARIETALS:** SHIRAZ – 100%

**REGION:** McLAREN VALE

**VINEYARD:** Slightly higher elevation means the original Penny's Hill vineyard enjoys a climate a little cooler than the rest of McLaren Vale. This ensures more consistent temperatures throughout the ripening period, allowing Shiraz to reach optimum ripeness with minimum stress. Penny's Hill Shiraz benefits demonstrably from a high density, narrow-row layout which sees less crop load per vine than is usual in the region. Detailed canopy management, judicious irrigation and passionate viticultural practices contribute to this outstanding Shiraz. Harvest was March 2008

**VINIFICATION:** To best reflect the variations in terroir across the vineyards, harvest of individual parcels occurred on different days. Fruit was destemmed before open ferment, where on-skin fermentation was completed over 7 days prior to pressing. Some free-run and pressings completed fermentation for up to 21 months in French and American oak barrels; approximately 30% new, the balance 1 year old. By keeping parcels separate throughout the winemaking process, winemaker Ben Riggs was able to access a wide variety of component characteristics as final blending approached. Bottling - 16th December 2009. Bottle aged until August 2010

**COLOUR:** Deep, dark crimson red

**BOUQUET:** Sweet red currant and blackberry fruit supported by vanillin spice and a perfumed lift

**PALATE:** Rich, ripe dark berry fruit complemented by layers of spice, dried herbs and chocolate. Great length and intensity

**CELLARING:** Ready to drink, but will store for 5 years or so

**TECHNICAL DETAILS:** PH: 3.52 | ACID: 5.90G/L | ALC/VOL: 14.5%

**PRODUCTION:** 449 cases



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