



CHAPEL HILL
McLAREN VALE



THE VICAR SHIRAZ 2018

The Winery

Chapel Hill Winery was built on the site of the historic Seaview Chapel. The Chapel was built in 1865 and now serves as our tasting room. The first vines were planted at Chapel Hill in 1972 and the first vintage was in 1975.

"At Chapel Hill there exists a deep respect for our land and vines, this inspires our vision to handcraft wines with purity and balance. All of the grapes and wines are handled gently, in small batches to showcase the wonderful site and varietal characters of McLaren Vale."

Winemakers: Michael Fragos and Bryn Richards

The Vintage

Heavy winter rains filled the soil profile and set the vines up well for the season. Ideal growing conditions through spring encouraged a healthy, balanced canopy.

A comparatively cool and dry February and March allowed the vines to ripen at a steady pace, developing beautifully supple tannins at moderate sugar levels whilst retaining bright fruit flavours.

Viticulturist: Rachel Steer

Winemaker's Comments

The Vicar is Chapel Hill's flagship wine and is an annual vineyard selection of Chapel Hill's most outstanding and expressive parcels of McLaren Vale Shiraz. This wine embodies our commitment to McLaren Vale, its regal variety and our belief in gentle and patient winemaking.

Vineyard Specifications

The contributing vineyards for The Vicar 2018 Shiraz were:

- Lacey Branson Road – corner of Branson & Bayliss Road, central McLaren Vale;
- Lacey Watilla Block – Colville Road, at the foot of the Willunga Hills.

We would like to congratulate, and also dearly thank, these growers for their relentless dedication to quality.

The Winemaking

The vineyard blocks were harvested and fermented separately in small batch open fermenters. Gentle plunging was utilised for cap management and all of the ferments were left on skins for a minimum of 12 days.

Following gentle basket pressing, the free run and pressing fractions were combined. During the subsequent 21-month oak maturation period, the barrels were periodically racked and returned to ensure the integration of the tannins back into the structure of the wine. To preserve purity and character the wine is made with minimal additions and is allowed to clarify naturally without the use of fining or filtration.

www.chapelhillwine.com.au



CHAPEL HILL
McLAREN VALE



THE VICAR SHIRAZ 2018

Wine Notes

This is wonderfully opulent Vicar. Inky black and packed with blackberries, plums and dark chocolate with a twist of aniseed. The nose brims with a complex mix of wild herbs, violets, black liquorice and a sprinkle of wild fennel. A powerful wine that flows across your palate unveiling layers of delicious flavours and succulent tannins with an impossibly long finish. Purity in a glass.

Wine Specifications

Variety: 100% Shiraz
Appellation: 100% McLaren Vale
Harvest date: 23rd and 22nd February 2018
Barrel ageing: Matured for 21 months
Oak age: 300 litre French oak hogsheads
Oak age: 25% new oak
pH: 3.7
Acidity: 6.1 g/L
Alcohol: 14.5 % v/v
Bottled: November 2019
Release date: June 2020

Suitable for vegetarians and vegans

Reviews and accolades

95 pts – James Halliday Wine Companion
'There is a certain style to The Vicar that one might call dark and inky. Brooding, too. Maybe it's the role of oak, maybe it's in the sourcing of fruit from Chapel Hill's best growers, or in the hands and mind of the winemaker, but it's one intense drinking experience. Black throughout, licorice, the full spice rack and Vale savoury earth. Pronounced tannins are there of the journey ahead.'

92 pts – James Suckling

96 pts – Andrew Caillard, MW
'Deep crimson. Fresh intense blackberry, elderberry, mulberry with graphite aniseed notes. Inky deep wine with plentiful blackberry, elderberry, mulberry fruits, fine looseknit chalky graphite tannins and underlying savoury notes. Finishes grainy firm with a lovely chinotto notes. A fruit-driven wine with superb freshness and mineral length. Now – 2032.'

Commended - Decanter World Wine Awards

95pts – Mike Bennie, WBM

96pts – Tyson Stelzer