

“The 2008 growing season was a tale of two vintages. Conditions were perfect for those who were fortunate enough to harvest prior to the March 3rd heatwave.”

Andrew ‘Ox’ Hardy, Winemaker.

OX HARDY

McLAREN VALE

VINTAGE 2008
1891 ANCESTOR VINE
SHIRAZ

BACKGROUND

When Thomas Hardy purchased the Upper Tintara Vineyard in McLaren Vale in 1871, it heralded the foundation of one of Australia’s greatest winemaking dynasties. Today the picturesque property is still owned by the Hardy family, and consists of native protected scrub and approximately 45 Ha of vines. Amongst these vines is the fruit source for this wine; the last remaining 2.54Ha block of Ancestor Shiraz Vines planted by Thomas Hardy in 1891.

WINEMAKING

Approximately one tonne of fruit was hand-picked from the Ancestor Vine Block at 14.1 baumé on 26th February 2008. The fruit was then de-stemmed before fermentation in a small open vessel for ten days, with hand plunging at least three times daily. Post-ferment the wine remained on skins for fourteen days before being basket pressed then transferred to second fill French oak barriques. The Ancestor Vine Shiraz spent nearly two years maturing in these barrels before being filtered and bottled in February 2010. The wine has been matured in bottle in perfect cellaring conditions for nine years prior to its release in May 2019

Winemaker	Andrew Hardy		
Appellation	Blewitt Springs, McLaren Vale		
Variety	Shiraz 100%, planted 1891		
Yield	6 t/Ha		
Oak	Dargaud et Jaegle, second fill		
Production	812 bottles		
Colour	Deep and bright with red brick hues.		
Aroma	Black cherry, mulberry dark fruits. A hint of tar and chocolate. Very generous.		
Palate	Blackberries, cedar, savoury with tobacco leaf. Big and rich, powerful but elegant. Some lively leather and spice and abundant soft sandy tannin.		
Wine Analysis	Alc: 14.5%	RS: 0.0 g/L	TA: 6.50 g/L pH: 3.47

