

THE WINE DEPOSITORY

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EST. 2011

Ministry Of Clouds *McLaren Vale*

Not your average McLaren Vale producers. Husband and wife team Julian and Bernice are making red wine from their own site and plots around McLaren Vale. These are wines that are on the understated side, but for wine lovers, they are a treasure trove of nuanced wines that will reward cellaring for the mid to long-term. **You need to try these wines.**

Chardonnay Tasmanina 2017

Combines one site in the Derwent Valley and another in Coal River Valley. Julian and Bernice keep the sections of the pressed wine separate until the last possible moment. This lets them blend between sites and components of the pressing to make the wine they want.

This is a wine of restraint. There is weight of fruit on the palate and lovely acidity. But it is waiting to show it all. Stone fruits, oystershell, and white flowers are evident. Drink from now, it will be more open in 3-7 years.

Riesling Clare Valley 2018

One of the sites that goes into this wine is grown without trellising. There is all the **lovely Clare** citrus, mineral and acid **but there is a density** on the palate **that shows the class**. Drink this one after 2026. But I have a feeling it will be able to improve for much, much longer.

Tempranillo Grenache McLaren Vale 2017

Dry grown Temp and old vine Grenache. It is a great match. Cherries, red flowers, mid-weight and soft of tannin. There is instant appeal from the first sip and so **this is the wine in the range for drinking now**.

Shiraz McLaren Vale 2017

Probably the only wine in the range that I would pick as being from McLaren Vale. This is the nod to the style of the region they love. It has the richness and density of **the great McLaren Vale Shiraz**. If you look for it, the perfume and nuances are there too. I'd happily drink this wine from now, but if you can hold on to some it will be charming you for the short, mid, and long term. Just try and keep your hands off it.

Grenache McLaren Vale 2017

MOC source fruit from two sites, both of which are 80 years old or more. They've built in layers of flavour, this is a wine to sit and watch evolve in your glass. And **a wine to appreciate just what Grenache can do**. I'd jump into a bottle now and keep the rest to watch the evolution in bottle.

Mataro McLaren Vale 2016

Kintsugi stole the limelight, but this was **my star of the show** until that point. There is a rugged charm of Mataro. Dirty, earthy, meaty/gamey. At its core though, it is a softy, with its dark fruits and pepper. It is a tannic wine, but the stuffing is there to balance it out on the palate. Like I've said for the whole range, this wine is compelling and interesting to drink now, but it is going to get better.



Julian and I after tasting and recording a podcast.

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Kintsugi McLaren Vale 2015

This is MoC's take on a reserve wine. It is just not your classic equation that Reserve = More. More power, more oak, more alcohol. In their instance the reserve means nuance, LESS colour. There is more though; more length of flavour, more ability to age. More so than all of that, it is a wine that gives you more evolution. At first taste I decided it was the most Chateauneuf du Pape like Australian wine I had ever tried so I ordered some in. Finally, I had cracked beyond the superficial. The day it arrived, I opened the bottle and initially my Chateauneuf similar rang true. But as the wine opened up it looked more Pinot-esque. The elegance and understatedness (it might not be a real word but sums up my point well) became more apparent and more intriguing. Drink anytime from now until...? Eternity? Just make sure you get some. The 2016 is coming, but it will be a different wine. I haven't tasted the 2016, but even if it is a better wine, you'll still want some of the 2015 in your cellar.

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