



The Chronicle Wine Selections

McLaren Vale Shiraz

By Lynn Char Bennett

“Located in South Australia, McLaren Vale lies south of Adelaide and is home to many vintners who specialize in making deep, dark Shiraz. Long, warm days ripen grapes, while cooling afternoon sea breezes from the Gulf Saint Vincent help maintain acidity.

Of the 50 wines the panel tasted, 10 were 2004s, 17 from 2005 and the remaining 23 were from the 2006 vintage. We are recommending 18 of the McLaren Vale bottles we sampled.

McLaren’s flavor profile blends dark plum and berry fruit with spice, chocolate and warm oak. The Shirazes tasted are balanced, with varying levels of tannin and acidity; some also have earthier notes and herb hints. Most alcohol levels are in the 14.5 percent range and offer a balance of good fruit and acidity; they aren’t overtly hot on either nose or palate. The best bottles have fine tannins and good structure to support some aging.

Several of our recommended wines rise above the \$50 mark, but they are excellent examples of the layered and engaging Shiraz that McLaren Vale can produce.”

- ★ ★ ★ 1/2 **2006 Yangarra Estate Vineyard Single Vineyard McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$25)**
Complex aromas and flavors of eucalyptus, chocolate, butterscotch, tar and tobacco evolve from the glass, which underscore the palate’s spice and concentrated, succulent fruit. The deliciously balanced finish goes on and on.
- ★ ★ ★ 2004 Shingleback Show Reserve McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$30)
- ★ ★ ★ 2006 Mr. Riggs McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$55)
- ★ ★ 1/2 2005 Sylvan Springs McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$22)
- ★ ★ 1/2 2006 Two Hands Angels Share McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$30)
- ★ ★ 1/2 2006 Marquis Phillips Shiraz 9 McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$40)
- ★ ★ 1/2 2004 Kay Brothers Amery Vineyards Hillside McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$45)
- ★ ★ 2005 Expatriate McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$56)
- ★ ★ 2004 The Gate McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$35)
- ★ ★ 2005 Hazyblur McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$42)
- ★ ★ 2004 Hugo McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$21)
- ★ ★ 2006 Longwood The Shearer McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$20)
- ★ ★ 2006 Mr. Riggs The Gaffer McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$21)
- ★ ★ 2006 Oliverhill Winery Clarendon McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$30)
- ★ ★ 2005 Penny Hill’s McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$32)
- ★ ★ 2005 Samuel’s Gorge McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$45)
- ★ ★ 2004 Shingleback D Block Reserve McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$50)
- ★ ★ 2006 Tapestry MV McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$20)



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