

James Haselgrove Wines

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August 2008

"10 of the Best"
2008 Companion
Willunga 100
2009
The Old Faithful

James Halliday
Australian
Wine Companion
2009 Edition

"Ten of the best new wineries"

THE OLD FAITHFUL ESTATE McLaren Vale / PAGE 638

This is a fifty-fifty joint venture between American specialist wine importer John Larchet (with one half), and a quartet of Nick Haselgrove, Warren Randall, Warren Ward and Andrew Fletcher, all of whom know McLaren Vale like the back of their hand (with the other half). Focused on the US market, the venture is able to pay top dollar for top-quality grapes, and the wines are skillfully made by the equally experienced Nick Haselgrove.



The Old Faithful Estate

★★★★★

c/- PO Box 235 (Kangarilla Road), McLaren Vale, SA 5171 **Region** McLaren Vale

T 0419 383 907 F (08) 8323 9747 **Open** By appt

Winemaker Nick Haselgrove, Warren Randall **Est.** 2005 **Cases** 2500

This is a 50/50 joint venture between American John Larchet (with one half) and a quartet of Nick Haselgrove, Warren Randall, Warren Ward and Andrew Fletcher (with the other half). Larchet has long had a leading role as a specialist importer of Australian wines into the US, and guarantees the business whatever sales it needs there. The shiraz, grenache and mourvedre come from selected blocks within Tinlins wine resources, with which the quartet has a close association. It's a winning formula.

- ★★★★★ **Top of the Hill McLaren Vale Shiraz 2006** Has more depth and structure, more regional in expression than the Cafe Block; a nice touch of blackberry; excellent length courtesy of fine tannins. Diam. 14.5° alc. **Rating** 95 **To 2026** \$75
- ★★★★★ **Northern Exposure McLaren Vale Grenache 2006** Deep crimson; has the power, texture and tannin grip which only comes from McLaren Vale, the fruit in a black, rather than red, spectrum. From 60-year-old dry-grown vines on terra rossa. Diam. 14.5° alc. **Rating** 94 **To 2021** \$75
- ★★★★★ **Sandhill McLaren Vale Grenache 2006** From 50-year-old vines on sandy soil, with more red fruit notes and more elegant, but still the unique regional power, focus and length; finer, but more intense, than Northern Exposure. Diam. 14.5° alc. **Rating** 94 **To 2017** \$75

- ★★★★★ **Almond Grove McLaren Vale Mourvedre 2006** A massive wine, with all the grainy/rocky tannins which mourvedre is noted for and hence is usually used as a blend component. Long life ahead. Diam. 14° alc. **Rating** 93 **To 2021** \$75
- ★★★★★ **Cafe Block McLaren Vale Shiraz 2005** A bright and fresh medium-bodied palate, which opens with quite sweet black fruits, then moves through to a spicy, tangy, savoury finish; 50-year-old vines. Cork. 14.5° alc. **Rating** 91 **To 2020** \$75

Top of the Hill McLaren Vale Shiraz 2005 Very similar style to Cafe Block, with slightly more developed colour; opens with sweet fruit then spicy cake and bitter chocolate finish. Cork. 14.5° alc. **Rating** 90 **To 2020** \$75

Cafe Block McLaren Vale Shiraz 2006 Fully ripe, juicy berry fruit in a predominantly red spectrum; fine tannins and oak. Diam. 15° alc. **Rating** 90 **To 2020** \$75

Northern Exposure McLaren Vale Grenache 2005 Unforced, fresh raspberry and red cherry fruits; supple, fine tannins and gentle extract; 60-year-old vines. Cork. 14.5° alc. **Rating** 90 **To 2014** \$75

- ★★★★★ **Almond Grove McLaren Vale Mourvedre 2005** Retains good hue; dark berry fruits with the lingering tannins expected of the variety, but needs more mid-palate push. Cork. 14.5° alc. **Rating** 89 **To 2014** \$75



2006 Vintage

Release Date October 2008

Email

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to reserve your wine.

How to use the Ratings

The precise meanings attached to the winery star rating are as follows; the percentage at the end of each rating is that of the total number of wineries in the Wine Companion. Bear in mind there are another 822 wineries which either have low or no ratings.

- ★★★★★ Outstanding winery regularly producing wines of exemplary quality and typicity. Will have at least two wines rated at 94 points or above, and have had a five-star rating for the previous two years. 8%
- ★★★★☆ Outstanding winery capable of producing wines of very high quality, and did so this year. Also will usually have at least two wines rated at 94 points or above. 12.5%
- ★★★★☆ Excellent winery able to produce wines of high to very high quality, knocking on the door of a five-star rating. Will have one wine rated at 94 points or above, and two (or more) at 90 or above; others at 87 to 89. 20.5%
- ★★★★☆ Very good producer of wines with class and character. Will have two (or more) wines rated at 90 points or above (or possibly one at 94 or above). 23%
- ★★★★☆ A solid, usually reliable maker of good, sometimes very good wines. Will have one wine at 90 points or above; others at 87 to 89. 13.5%
- ★★★☆☆ A typically good winery, but often has a few lesser wines. Will have some wines at 87 to 89 points. 17%
- ★★★☆☆ Has the potential to, and normally aspires to, improve. No wines rated above 86 points. 1%
- NR A winery, often new, the wines of which I have not tasted in the past 12 months. Will only appear once under this rating. 4.5%



James Haselgrove Wines

James Haselgrove Wines

★★★★☆

PO Box 271, McLaren Vale, SA 5171 **Region** McLaren Vale
T (08) 8383 0886 F (08) 8383 0887 www.haselgrovevignerons.com **Open** Not
Winemaker James Haselgrove **Est.** 1981 **Cases** 300

While in one sense this is now a virtual winery, Nick Haselgrove is quick to point out that it has access to substantial vineyards and winemaking resources. He and James Haselgrove (who founded this winery) are reluctant to see the business disappear, and intend to continue making and releasing wines under the James Haselgrove label. In terms of both price and style they will differ from Blackbilly (see separate entry). Exports to the US, Canada and Singapore.



★★★★☆ **Futures McLaren Vale Shiraz 2005** Classy, strongly regional style; medium-bodied black fruits and dark chocolate; quality French oak and ripe tannins easily carry alcohol; 70-year-old vines. Screwcap. 14.9° alc. **Rating** 94 **To** 2025 **\$49.95**

★★★★☆ **Futures McLaren Vale Shiraz 2006** Plenty of flavour and character, but does struggle in vain under its load of alcohol. Screwcap. 14.9° alc. **Rating** 87 **To** 2013 **\$49.95**

Blackbilly Wines

★★★★★

Kangarilla Road, McLaren Vale, SA 5171 **Region** McLaren Vale
T 0419 383 907 F (08) 8323 9747 www.blackbilly.com **Open** By appt
Winemaker Nick Haselgrove, Warren Randall **Est.** 2003 **Cases** 7500

Blackbilly has emerged from the numerous changes in the various Haselgrove wine interests. These days the people behind Blackbilly are Nick Haselgrove, Warren Randall, Warren Ward and Andrew Fletcher. Blackbilly is able to access the 400 ha of vines owned by Tinlins, along with smaller suppliers in McLaren Vale. Exports to all major markets.

★★★★☆ **McLaren Vale Shiraz 2006** Dense colour; full-bodied and rich, but supple; blackberry fruit with the regional subtext of dark chocolate; ripe, soft tannins. Screwcap. 14.5° alc. **Rating** 93 **To** 2021 **\$21.95**

McLaren Vale Grenache Shiraz Mourvedre 2006 A fractionally reduced bouquet; has textural and structural interest; spicy earthy verging on peppery notes to the core of red and black fruits. Screwcap. 14.5° alc. **Rating** 90 **To** 2013 **\$21.95**

★★★★☆ **Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc 2007** Clean, fresh mineral and grass aromas; lively flavours, introducing citrus and asparagus; good for the vintage. Screwcap. 12° alc. **Rating** 89 **To** 2009 **\$17.95**

Adelaide Hills Chardonnay 2007 A somewhat oaky but complex bouquet, then a strongly worked palate, with some nutty milk characters, and again oaky. Screwcap. 13° alc. **Rating** 87 **To** 2009 **\$17.95**

Adelaide Hills Pinot Gris 2007 Lemony acidity adds to the length, though not so much to varietal character; however, the wine is clean and dry, with enough depth for food. Screwcap. 13.5° alc. **Rating** 87 **To** 2009 **\$21.95**

McLaren Vale Sparkling Shiraz NV A clear varietal shiraz base and perfectly judged dosage (sweetness) for wide appeal. **Rating** 87 **To** 2011 **\$29.95**



Blackbilly

Willunga 100 Wines

★★★★★

Kangarilla Road, McLaren Vale, SA 5171 **Region** McLaren Vale
T (08) 8323 8649 F (08) 8323 7622 www.libertywine.co.uk **Open** By appt
Winemaker Nick Haselgrove, Warren Randall **Est.** 2005 **Cases** 12 000

This is a joint venture between Blackbilly and Liberty Wines UK, the latter a well-known importer of quality wines from Australia. It is a grape-to-retail venture, the foundation being grapes supplied by 400 ha of McLaren Vale vineyards, with a particular emphasis on viognier, shiraz, grenache and cabernet sauvignon. Almost all the wine is exported to the UK and Europe, with limited amounts sold in Australia by mail order; has hit the scene running with outstanding value for money.

★★★★☆ **McLaren Vale Cabernet Shiraz 2006** Brilliant colour; medium- to full-bodied; has abundant black fruits in a positive palate with good drive and complexity; ripe tannins and good oak handling. Screwcap. 14° alc. **Rating** 94 **To** 2016 **\$18**

★★★★☆ **McLaren Vale Grenache 2006** Voluminous juicy fruit aromas and flavours are unequivocally varietal, though needs a little more structure/conviction. Screwcap. 14.5° alc. **Rating** 90 **To** 2009 **\$18**



Enquiries

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James Haselgrove Wines

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