

McLaren Vale is home to some of the most treasured Old Vine plantings in the world today, with the earliest known plantings dating back to 1860's. We affectionately refer to them as "The Old Faithful". They are a resource we treasure dearly.

The Old Faithful Wine Company is an artisan producer of small quantities of exceptional wines from older, exceptional single vineyards. We look for vineyards that are expressive of McLaren Vale, the vintage and the variety and only release our wines when the wines display these finest characters. With the Rhone as its inspiration - Shiraz, Grenache and sometimes Mourvedre grace our portfolio. Made to age gracefully, we believe in and recommend our wines and hope you can enjoy the magic of 'The Old Faithful'.

The 'Top of the Hill' Shiraz is another expressive site in McLaren Vale. Over 40 years old and perched at the "Top of the Hill" in the north of McLaren Vale with commanding views and hard schist loam soils, these vines have natural low vigour and produced some of the best fruit of the vintage.

After harvesting, the grapes undergo cold soak in an open tank then ferment slowly over a week or more. On pressing the wine was transferred to seasoned French oak barrels to complete fermentation and add structure to the wine. Only the best barrels were selected for the final wine. Bottled with light filtration, no fining.



Top of the Hill Shiraz, 2012

- Vintage: 2012
Region: McLaren Vale
Variety: Shiraz grown in schist loams
Oak: 100% Seasoned French oak Hogsheads for 30 months.
Closure: We use DIAM technical cork to provide taint free cellaring.
Bottled: December, 2014
Analysis: 14.5% Alc/vol, pH 3.54 TA 6.8
Winemaking: Nick Haselgrove
- Winemaker's Notes at February, 2015:
- Colour: Opaque, saturated purple.
Nose: Briary, bramble bush...reminiscent of wild blackberries. Nougat and mocha oak notes with a hint of liquorice and forest floor.
Palate: Tannic, full and rich with stoney, mineral palate and black fruits with length and crisp acidity. Full flavoured and persistent but needs time for the tannins to integrate and resolve.

2012 Vintage: Benchmark, one of the better conditions of vintage experienced for some time in McLaren Vale.