

1986 "FUTURES" SHIRAZ

Appearance: Very deep red, brilliantly clear.

3

Nose: Magnificent leafiness. Ethereal complexity, some ferruginous depth adding to the totality of flavour. Very much the individual wine with quite some "Rhone"-like nuances. The typical McLaren Vale earthiness is a finger print in this wine.

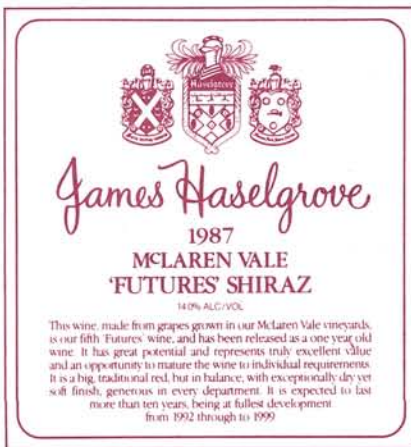
6.50

Palate: Very rich, fruity palate with a lesser tannin size but with a distinctive individuality and back-bone. Quite some elegance with the size. The finish shows a finesse in the tannins in being totally adequate without being aggressive in any way.

8.50

18.00

Potential: This wine has yet to reach the "plateau" with some 3-5 years yet before it does. After that it should hold for some 8 to 10 years. The individuality will become more distinctive.



1987 "FUTURES" SHIRAZ

Appearance: Again the magnificent depth of colour ruby-red.

3

Nose: An earthiness of McLaren Vale character over top of deep plum jam fruit. Alcohol is evident lifting into the upper nose. Decant one hour prior to drinking.

5

Palate: Rich, warm palate. Slight leatheriness but very rewarding. Soft finish but with big tannin. Quite high flavour level.

6

Excellent fruit in mid palate.

14

Potential: As with the other "Futures" Shiraz wines there is no doubt as to its keeping potential. However, drinking within the next year or two at an out door BBQ in accompaniment with a rich steak will be most rewarding.

1988 "FUTURES" SHIRAZ – The "futures" wine was not bottled in this year.



1989 "FUTURES" SHIRAZ

Appearance: Bluish/purple tinges still.

3

Nose: Superb leafiness in amongst the deep fruit and light pepperiness. Very noticeable complexity through the lifted vinosity — like putting your head into a vine and chewing the fruit. Excellent character, especially in a "difficult" year. Some light chocolaty lift.

6

Palate: Great potential. A wine of richness, complexity and individuality. It has all the attributes ready to develop and in excellent balance. The firm finish will soften with time.

9

18

Potential: This wine will continue to develop its potential for the next 3-5 years. In not being quite so weighted as the others, it may well be best in 6-8 years time. Potentially an excellent individual wine of elegance and distinctive character.

SUMMARY:

The tasting as such was fascinating in that even though each wine started out with similar specifications in mind, nature had taken over and in time given each wine a very distinctive individual personality.

In my opinion the complexities, the rich pluminess, the potential longevity and the rewarding flavours fully justify the "Futures" system.

Even the 1987 "Futures" with its touch of "McLaren Vale Character" has much to offer.

I look forward to being involved in the making of the 1990 "Futures", for this year seems to be one of the best vintages in the last 30 years.

So much is just right. The weather. The growing period. The grape analysis and the finished early reds.

I therefore encourage you to take up your allocations as soon as James notifies its opening for orders.

(We thank James Irvine for his comprehensive analysis)