"I am constantly blown away by the quality of fruit from these old vines. They're not great because they're old, they're old because they're great".

Andrew 'Ox' Hardy, Winemaker.

OX HARDY
McLAREN VALE

VINTAGE 2012

1891 ANCESTOR VINE

SHIRAZ

BACKGROUND

When Thomas Hardy purchased the Upper Tintara Vineyard in McLaren Vale in 1871, it heralded the foundation of one of Australia's greatest winemaking dynasties. Today the picturesque property is still owned by the Hardy family, and consists of native protected scrub and approximately 45 Ha of vines. Amongst these vines is the fruit source for this wine; the last remaining 2.54Ha block of Ancestor Shiraz Vines planted by Thomas Hardy in 1891.

WINEMAKING

Approximately one tonne of fruit was hand-picked from the 1891 planted Ancestor Vine Block at 14.1 baumé on 27th February 2012. The fruit was then de-stemmed before fermentation in a small open vessel for ten days, with hand plunging at least three times daily. Post-ferment the wine remained on skins for fourteen days before being basket pressed and transferred to second fill French oak barriques. The Ancestor Vine Shiraz spent nearly two years maturing in these barrels before being filtered and bottled in February 2014. The wine has been matured in bottle in perfect cellaring conditions for seven years prior to its release in March 2021.

Winemaker	Andrew Hardy
Appellation	Blewitt Springs, McLaren Vale
Variety	Shiraz 100%, planted 1891
Yield	4.5 t/Ha
Oak	Dargaud et Jaegle barriques, second fill
Production	712 bottles
Colour	Deep and intense with a tinge of purple.
Aroma	Blackberry and dark fruits, with hints of cherry-brandy and star anise.
Palate	Rich, generous and full-bodied. Deep, dark fruits, opulent and succulent. Fine, supple tannins lead through to a persistently long finish.
Wine Analysis	Alc: 14.5% RS: 1.0 g/L TA: 5.5 g/L pH: 3.66

