



SLATE.....Billy from Bangor

There is slate everywhere in the McLaren Vale region; roofing tiles, red wine fermenters, floors, verandahs and signage. There are at least three old quarries in the Willunga Hills overlooking the McLaren Vale region. They date from the 1840s. There is a long waiting list for slate from Billy at the Bangor quarry as he works to make a living from a very traditional craft.



“Couple parted always missing each other”

The Australian Wine Industry recently held a new event for the international wine industry in Adelaide. It was a great success. At my appointed dinner on the first night in the old courtyard of Glenside, the original Mental Health Hospital (now the SA Film Commission) I found myself next to “Gerard” who is one of the largest on-line wine sellers in China. He outlined a few wine words and what they mean in Chinese. Sauvignon Blanc = “Couple parted but always missing each other”. Cabernet Sauvignon = “Red Pearl” and the most fortuitous of the lot, Penfolds = “Running towards fortune”. And I always thought that Penfolds just made good wine!

Clean out an old cellar and look what you find; a selection of old wines and old labels. Outstanding was the 1985 Riesling, 1985 Grenache Touriga, and 1972 Shiraz Cabernet.

2011 “McLaren Vale’s Miracle Vintage”

Huon Hooke Decanter November 2013.

UK Christmas Delivery

We can arrange Xmas deliveries of a 6 pack of Coriole wine. The pack includes Chenin Blanc, Fiano, Sangiovese Shiraz, Redstone Cabernet, Redstone Shiraz and Sangiovese. Alternatively we can make up a premium pack that includes Estate Shiraz and Lloyd Reserve Shiraz.

Total cost for the standard 6 pack to any mainland UK address is £89.95.

Contact Amy; amy@coriole.com to arrange.



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White Noise

McLaren Vale has a great reputation for red wines. However isn't the adjacent region of Adelaide Hills the well-recognised place for white wines? This proved to be a great year at Coriole to test this theory out. We lease a small vineyard in the hills just a kilometre or so from the McLaren Vale boundary at 400 meters, which allows us to monitor the comparative strengths of our two main white varieties; Chenin Blanc and Fiano. Shortly after vintage we were able to do blind tastings of the two varieties comparing the wines of each region. The McLaren Vale examples were preferred. The Adelaide Hills wines were very fine and with excellent bouquet, but they just lacked the personality and the distinctiveness of the variety. This was a significant result but we will retest in future. There are white wines that can really shine in McLaren Vale but they have to be the most suitable varieties.



Chenin Blanc

We revisited the Chenin Blanc making this year with winemaker Alex Sherrah. We aimed to increase the delicacy and aromatic lift of the wine. It has worked. How do I know this? I had already consumed several bottles at home, before the wine had even gone off to the bottling line.

Fiano

Every Italian variety seems to have its slot; its distinctive characteristic which makes it so interesting to explore at the table. Fiano is lemony, textural and shows fresh but completely natural acidity. Its chemical analysis usually comes in as ideal, making us think this is another reason that it is such a perfect match with McLaren Vale. We have made this vintage in a similar way to the Chenin Blanc and it shows with its fresh aromas and clear fruit flavour.

Prosecco 2013

This sparkling grape completes the trio of 2013 white wines that have performed extremely well this vintage. The light delicate nature of this variety is the ideal base for a sparkling wine. No wonder Prosecco is on such a meteoric rise in consumption around the world.

Mark Lloyd



SHEEP.....or PLOUGH.....or WEEDS

The Herbicide Challenge

Vignerons are keen to do away with using herbicide to kill the weeds below the vines. They may want to go "Organic" and therefore herbicide is precluded, or they may simply want to move to healthier livelier soils.

Coriole is using three methods to eliminate herbicide. Sheep are very effective mowers. Increasingly vineyards around McLaren Vale are full of sheep. They chew down the weeds, eliminate broad leaved weeds in favour of grasses within a season or two. The sheep need to be removed from the vineyard at budburst.

An alternative is to return to a method from the past- mechanical weeding between the vines using a tractor and a single dodge or "silly plough". This takes a great deal of concentration to ensure that vines are not "weeded" as well as the weeds!



Sheep, Sculpture and Sangiovese at Sandalwood



Silly plough and Shiraz at Willunga



Sour Sob and Shiraz at Galaxidia (Coriole)

The third method is to fight weeds with weeds. The pretty Sour Sob or Oxalis thrives in disturbed mounded soil, grows in the winter and out competes other weeds. Then with the first warm day in October, it dies in a flash, leaving a blanket of mulch and a weed-free under vine row for the summer. Sour sobs may be simple on top but underground they are a complex structure of tubers and bulbs that contribute good organic matter to the soil.

Like Father Recently I seem to have taken up one of my father's habits. Hugh Lloyd liked to drink good wine but during the week restricted himself to just a glass (and a bit) with dinner. His solution? Take that good bottle of Bordeaux, or Chateau Reynella Claret, or a Coriole, (of course). Decant into two half bottles. Then drink the first and hold the next over for a night or so.



Picture of half bottles



Recommendations and Tasting Notes

Estate Shiraz 2011

Coriole Shiraz from an excellent vintage in McLaren Vale. Rich and spice influenced aromas. Generous length, moderate ripeness and soft tannins. Very cool vintage. Good for the table or the cellar.

Chenin Blanc 2013

Delicate floral aromatics. Easy and soft drinking on the terrace. Yet will age for many years. I love this style of Chenin.

Nero d'Avola 2013

Coriole has released its first tiny volume of this Sicilian variety. We have been looking for a variety that can be released young with minimal oak. Nero increasingly looks to have won the audition. Medium bodied, juicy youthful flavours, low tannin.

Fiano 2013

Every restaurateur we show this 2013 Fiano is very enthusiastic. But is the variety still too new to sell from the restaurant list? Fresh lime/apricot aromas and that distinctive fresh texture of the variety. One of our best vintages of Fiano.

Mary Kathleen 2011

HALLIDAY 95 POINTS

16% Merlot in this Cabernet blend. Deep aromas with berry fruit. Full bodied, moderate ripeness. Rich and gentle tannins.

Prosecco 2013

Delicate light and aperitif style sparkling. Fresh and dry. This variety is a refreshing change from Chardonnay as the base of great sparkling wines.

Barbera 2012

Medium bodied, brightly fruited, moderate acidity and low tannin.

Sangiovese 2012

100% Sangiovese. Great for drinking young or for cellaring. Blueberry and sage aromas and dark berry/dried herb flavours. This is such a big wine yet such a light wine...the enigma of the variety. Classic Coriole Sangiovese. We recently opened a 1990 and all present were impressed and surprised.

Lloyd Reserve Shiraz 2011

HALLIDAY 95 POINTS

A deep aroma of dark cherry and clove. The palate is full, rich and complex with bright, dark fruit and restrained oak. A balanced wine that is elegant with an approachability that many of the 2011 reds from McLaren Vale display. Drink now and over the next 8-12 years. The vineyard at Coriole was planted in 1919.

Estate Cabernet 2011

An attractive aroma suggesting blueberry and fresh herbs. Medium to full bodied with dark fruit and choc-mint. A wine with a tight structure and balanced finish. Drink now or confidently lay down for 6-10 years.