

# PAXTON

## CRACKER BARRELS

McLAREN VALE  
2020



At Paxton Wines, we have been nurturing our family owned vineyards in McLaren Vale, South Australia, since 1979. We are leaders in organic and biodynamic winemaking.

Viticulturist David Paxton, along with Winemakers Ashleigh Seymour and Kate Goodman have combined their years of experience, and by embracing biodynamic and organic practices (fully certified since 2011), are producing the healthiest of vines.

Through the use of natural preparations and composts, the soil and vine are able to find the perfect balance. The end result is exceptionally pure fruit and "Wines with Life".

VARIETY: 50% Shiraz and 50% Cabernet Sauvignon

VINEYARDS: Shiraz Thomas Block EJ, Cabernet Jones Block Don's Corner

COLOUR: Black rose

AROMA: There's a lot packed into this cracking, dark and broody wine. Carefree memories of leaning against the brick wall of the local milkbar scoffing red liquorice lollies coming together in an unlikely paradox with Chinese five-spiced Peking duck hanging up in a restaurant's windowfront. Trickle of Topdeck chocolate and sandalwood incense join in the menagerie with whispers of raspberry leaf tea and green peppercorns bringing us back down to earth.

PALATE: The theme of complexity continues on with a textural tapestry of taste. Soft footsteps on a wet gravelly path leading to open cliffs of the Scottish Isles, jaw-dropping but refreshing at the same time. A pondering wander through woodlands leads to wild berry foraging, their slight emulating the lean, refined finish of this wine.

MUSIC MATCH: I Wanna Be Yours—Arcade Fire

GOOD:2022-2024 BETTER:2025-2028 BEST: 2029-2039

VINTAGE:2020 posed many challenges throughout Australia. Another intense drought year through the growing season was followed by one of the most devastating bushfire seasons this country has ever seen. Fortunately McLaren Vale was largely unaffected by this devastation and the early signs indicate 2020 to be a very special vintage; one to savour. Moderate weather throughout the picking season, combined with lower yields allowed the flavours to develop harmoniously and in balance. Varietal expression was excellent with Shiraz and Grenache showing lovely intense flavour without excessive tannin or alcohol. Tempranillo and Graciano are showing lovely plum and pepper characters and will be intriguing to see how they develop after time in oak and bottle.

VINIFICATION: The Biodynamic Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon single vineyard parcels are hand-picked and fermented separately in small open fermenters, delicately hand plunged and tasted daily until beautiful balance is achieved. After pressing, the wine is racked into French oak barriques of varying ages for malolactic fermentation and subsequent ageing. After 15 months resting, each barrel is carefully evaluated by our winemaking team to determine the perfect match for this traditional Australian blend.

ALCOHOL: 14.0%



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