

HUGH HAMILTON

Hugh Hamilton is the 5th generation of a large wine dynasty and is regarded as the black sheep of the family.

His daughter and 6th generation of the family, Mary, continues the legacy, making us Australia's Oldest Wine Family.

The Black Sheep experience is extraordinary. Hugh is the master of a most reprobate range of varieties from the classics to the more eclectic. When it comes to tasting our wines, you can expect to enjoy the difference.



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BLACK BLOOD II

STORY

‘Terroir’ is a word that encapsulates the taste of a wine due to its unique environment—altitude, climate, rainfall, temperature and soil. The Black Blood series are a trio of wines that represent a wonderful journey into McLaren Vale Shiraz, each from a different Hugh Hamilton vineyard with a distinct terroir. We keep everything else as consistent as possible—picking dates, winemaking approach, oak regime, maturation—so you can taste the place.

The soil here is alluvial as the vineyard is an ancient creek bed (a deep, winter-only creek at the eastern end is the last vestige to it). There is a distinct but very shallow gully which cuts across the Merlot and Shiraz vineyards; and at the western end has a band of soil which is shallow and tough, with quartz and scattered ironstone. The rows run east/west, which provides maximum shade from the sun during heatwave conditions.

The Shiraz vineyard can best be described as alluvial loam. It's not easy country for the vines, but they are pretty happy once they get their roots into the clay below, and produces a crop which ripens readily and evenly.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Church Vineyard, so named for the old Bethany Church that it surrounds on three sides, was once the bed of an ancient river. Whatever the flows in the past may have been, this river now trickles quietly along the base of the block. You can taste it's mark in the generosity of fruit that typifies this wine.

There's never enough wine from this block; the phenomenally plush mid palate is useful in almost any Shiraz blend. For me this fruit is truly at the heart of the Vale – both geographically and deliciously

CHURCH VINEYARD

2018

BOUQUET AND PALATE

Rich, dense and intense. A purple cloud of meaty raspberry, red liquorice, cherries and sweet tobacco. Lush and earthy. Cocoa, milk chocolate and demerara sugar. All backed with notes of 5-spice, anise and thyme.

VARIETAL

Shiraz

COLOUR

A deep purplish crimson

DRINK

Fresh and crunchy, or deeper and more nuanced – it's up to you. 2-8 years.

FOOD MATCH

Chinese Roasted Plum Duck



ANALYSIS: TA: 6.6 G/L | PH: 3.59 | ALC: 15% | RS: <2.0 G/L