HUGH Hamilton

BLACK BLOOD III

2018

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.

<u>Story</u>

'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.

On the north-eastern fringe of the broader McLaren Vale region lies the Blewitt Springs sub-region: higher in elevation and further from the sea—and consequently cooler and later-ripening than the main region, and featuring large ancient sand hills which are interspersed with gullies which feature ironstone and clays. Here is the Hugh Hamilton 'Black Sheep' vineyard: a very diverse piece of land with a sizeable creek separating it into two main sections. It is home to substantial plantings of Shiraz and Cabernet, each of which is divided into smaller sub-blocks according to the patchwork of soils on which they lie.

Many of these are quite mature—so that what our winemaker refers to as the 'Old' Shiraz needs to be differentiated from the 'Ancient'... but we believe both vineyards to be well over 90 years old... what a privilege to call such vines young!

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Sourced entirely from Block 4 at our Black Sheep Vineyard the incredible lift of this wine is in part due to the deep sand in which these vines have thrived since 1935. These old, gnarly, and twisted grape trees look nothing at all like the pretty, delicate florals, in the wine they produce.

BOUQUET AND PALATE

Strikingly fresh, blood-rose, high-violet and cherry lift. Pie crust, raspberry and jelly crystals vie for attention with red cherry lip-gloss and swiss milk chocolate. The massively salivating punchy and pure palate is at once fruit forward and savoury spiced. Textured and intense. All indications are there is even more to reward with time.

VARIETAL

Shiraz

<u>COLOUR</u> Brilliant crimson violet

DRINK

Though entrancing now, there is detail here that will become clear with patience. 4-8 years.

FOOD MATCH

This perfume loves spice - Try seared 5 Spice duck breast, or slow roast the whole.



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BLACK SHEEP VINEYARD

ANALYSIS: TA: 6.2 G/L | PH: 3.56 | ALC: 14.9% | RS: <2.5 G/L