

S.C. Pannell,

## `Old McDonald` Blewitt Springs McLaren Vale Grenache 2019

McLaren Vale, South Australia, Australia



S.C. PANNELL  
MCLAREN VALE



### PRODUCER

Stephen Pannell is one of the best and brightest of the new generation of Australian winemakers, having spent a decade working as chief red wine maker at Hardys before striking out on his own in 2004. Steve has worked all over the world, including with Aldo Vajra in Barolo and for Domaine Dujac and Pousse d'Or. His broad experience has helped shape his approach to winemaking and his wines are true expressions of the grapes and vineyards of McLaren Vale. In October 2015, Steve was named Winemaker of the Year by the consumer wine magazine, Gourmet Traveller Wine.

### VINEYARDS

Steve's interest in Grenache and desire to make medium-bodied styles stretches back to the mid 1990s when he first arrived in McLaren Vale. Given the warm, Mediterranean climate, Grenache grows as well in 'the Vale' as any of the more revered Grenache regions including France's Rhône Valley, Priorat in Spain and Italy's Sardinia. The grapes for this wine grow on 77 year old unirrigated vines in the Old McDonald vineyard in Blewitt Springs. Soils in this sub-region are sandy, with an underlying clay and ironstone base. The vines are south-east facing, in terraced contours and sit 80 metres above sea level.

### VINTAGE

A winemaker's vintage with every scrap of experience tested and measured. Lower than average winter rainfall set up for a dry growing season, which resulted in dramatically reduced yields. Harvest took place on 22nd February and was quite early for the vineyard. In low yield years, acidity is generally good, and sets the resulting wines up for stability and long lives.

### VINIFICATION

The hand-harvested grapes were traditionally vinified in small, open-top fermenters with 20% whole bunch. The wine spent 12 days on skins before gentle pressing. It was transferred to a 2,800 litre French oak vat for malolactic fermentation and maturation before being bottled in February 2020.

### TASTING NOTES

Aromas of raspberry, five spice, toasted nuts and sweet summer tomatoes on the nose. Fresh raspberry, rosewater and orange zest are prominent on the palate and exotic spice flavours drive the finish. Medium-bodied, there is a dense core of fruit typical of the Old McDonald vineyard, supported by complex, persuasive tannins.

Grape Varieties	<b>100% Grenache</b>
Winemaker	<b>Stephen Pannell</b>
Closure	<b>Screwcap</b>
ABV	<b>14%</b>
Acidity	<b>7.8g/L</b>
Wine pH	<b>3.42</b>
Bottle Sizes	<b>75cl</b>
Notes	<b>Vegetarian, Practising Organic, Vegan</b>