

Dandelion Vineyards,
`Lioness of McLaren Vale` Shiraz 2020
McLaren Vale, South Australia, Australia



Grape Varieties	100% Shiraz
Winemaker	Elena Brooks
Closure	Screwcap
ABV	14.5%
Residual Sugar	1g/L
Acidity	6.46g/L
Wine pH	3.5
Bottle Sizes	75cl
Notes	Vegetarian, Vegan

PRODUCER

Dandelion Vineyards is the venture of talented winemaker Elena Brooks, and her husband Zar. Their project makes wines from the Barossa and Eden Valleys, Fleurieu, the Adelaide Hills and McLaren Vale. Elena hails from Bulgaria. Her mother worked for a local producer, and so much of Elena's childhood was spent in a winery. By 15, she was well-versed in the ins and outs of the winemaking process, and by 16, she had made her first wine. After formal study and stints making wine worldwide, Elena eventually settled in McLaren Vale with Zar and founded Dandelion Vineyards. Nick Stock, one of Australia's leading journalists, wrote about Dandelion Vineyards saying, "The approach is remarkably simple and sees Elena making wine from a suite of beautiful old vineyards across that blessed curve that runs from the Barossa, up through the Eden Valley and Adelaide Hills and down into McLaren Vale."

VINEYARDS

Lioness of McLaren Vale is sourced from Angus and Helen Tuck's vineyard located in the subregion of Bakers Gully. Here mature Shiraz vines populate or perish, in the ironstone pebble laden clay loam, over ancient Kurradjong Formation geology, a silica cemented conglomerate most suited to grow Shiraz.

VINTAGE

The McLaren Vale Wine Region experienced a drier than average growing season for the third year in a row. The continuation of dry conditions contributed to generally low yields across the region. The summer of Vintage 2020 was a tale of two summers. The "first" summer, the month of December, was the hottest on record. Grape picking took five weeks to complete starting at full pace in the first week of March and ending at the start of April.

VINIFICATION

After hand picking whole bunches of in the first week of March, they were left to ferment together in open-top fermenters with ambient yeasts and hand plunging for 12 days, before basket pressing into some new but predominately older French Oak barriques. The wine then matured for a further 18 months in the same oak, before bottling without fining or filtration to capture the essence of the vineyard.

TASTING NOTES

On the nose there are dark fruit notes of plum, complemented by more aromatic notes of violets, pepper, chocolate, and rosemary. On the palate, the dry tannins and refreshing acidity support the black plum and wild raspberry fruit flavours.

AWARDS

International Wine Challenge 2022, Silver
Decanter World Wine Awards 2022, Silver