



Launching...

... new vintages of **Catapult Shiraz Viognier** and **Original Blend Grenache Shiraz**.

July 2010

The onset of winter sees the release of two Wirra Wirra reds inextricably linked to the proud history of the McLaren Vale winery and the maverick vision of the late Greg Trott.

The story behind the name of the **Catapult Shiraz Viognier** has garnered as much attention as the wine in recent years, recalling as it does Trott's plan to build a medieval trebuchet with which to hurl bottles in a mock "war" at neighbouring McLaren Vale wineries. Sadly fate intervened, with Trott's passing pre-empting construction of the siege machine – a task left to the current Wirra Wirra tribe to complete.

The 2008 model Catapult displays a delicate perfume of plum and rhubarb while a hint of fennel and blackcurrant jelly round out the bright aromas. Luscious fruit prevails with dark berries and soft tannins providing a full and velvety mouthfeel and rich fruit creating a juicy and fleshy palette.

The co-fermented blend of Shiraz (95%) and Viognier (5%) was matured over 18 months in French (60%) and American (40%) oak.

Senior winemaker Paul Smith says, "2008 began with ideal vintage conditions, interrupted by a record 15-day heatwave with maximum temperatures above 35 degrees. Despite these difficult conditions, we secured some very smart pre and post-heatwave parcels of McLaren Vale shiraz with high natural acid and intense colour and flavour. I think the quality of the 2008 reds is surprising a few people, giving the challenges of the vintage."

Stepping back further into Wirra Wirra folklore is the **2009 Original Blend Grenache Shiraz**. This wine takes its name from the first incarnation of the Wirra Wirra favourite, Church Block. When Trott produced his first vintage back in 1972, Church Block was indeed a blend of grenache and shiraz a style he tinkered with for a number of years before the likes of Brian Croser suggested a shift to the Bordeaux influenced blend of cabernet sauvignon, shiraz and merlot.

Persistent demand at cellar door led to the blend of grenache and shiraz making a welcome return – now known as the Original Blend. This wine displays a vivid crimson hue with a fresh, clean nose of raspberry and spicy leather. A rounded, soft mouthfeel and a mid-palate fleshiness is balanced with a fine tannin structure.

Smith finds it hard to disguise his enthusiasm for this wine. "For me grenache is so ideally suited to the McLaren Vale district. We have been able to source fruit off some exceptional old blocks over the past few vintages and it's exciting to see Wirra Wirra producing a wine in this style again."

- **2008 Wirra Wirra Catapult Shiraz Viognier – RRP \$22** (Available in selected retail and restaurants nationally)
- **2009 Wirra Wirra Original Blend Grenache Shiraz – RRP \$22** (Available in Cellar Door and selected restaurants nationally)

For bottle shots etc please contact:

- Georgina Jordan, Account Manager, Liquid Ideas on T: 02 9667 4211, M: 0412849026 or E: georginajordan@liquidideas.com.au

For information about the wine, please contact:

- Paul Smith, Senior Winemaker, Wirra Wirra on T: 08 8323 8414, M: 0410 676 973 or E: psmith@wirra.com.au

Find out more about these new releases and life at Wirra Wirra at our website: www.wirrawirra.com