



Wirra Wirra Flagships Herald New Arrival

It's been a while since Wirra Wirra has been able to release its flagship wines as a "set" and what better way to do so than with a brand new look and an exciting addition to the team. Together at last we have the **2009 RSW Shiraz**, the **2009 The Angelus Cabernet Sauvignon** and the introduction of the **2010 The Absconder Grenache**.

All the wines showcase the best of their type that Wirra Wirra can muster in any vintage, small parcels of fruit drawn from a handful of old McLaren Vale vineyards and made in limited quantities.

It's a philosophy that led to a decision not to release The Angelus from the heat blitzed 2008 vintage and not to produce The Absconder in 2011 after wet weather impacted on the quality of the two old blocks that provide for this wine.

No such issues for the RSW, which has a record of consistency and longevity that has earned it a home in the Langton's Classification of Australian Wine. The **2009 RSW Shiraz** is blended from fruit off vines aged 40-75 years across three McLaren Vale sites - Seaview, McLaren Flat and one in McLaren Vale proper. These vineyards are low in vigour, producing modest yields of intense fruit on soils that range from red clay and limestone to deep sands over an ironstone base.

A wine with wonderful power, balance and style, it reflects the hands-on winemaking process at the core of all the Wirra Wirra flagship reds. Each ferment was tasted twice daily to determine the level of hand plunging and maceration required, then basket pressed and the juice given 14 months maturation in 100% French oak (40% new). From there the individual vineyard components were barrel selected to form the base wine and returned to oak for an additional five months maturation.

From vintage **2009 The Angelus Cabernet Sauvignon** returns with lovely varietal cassis and blackcurrant fruits and 'classic McLaren Vale Cabernet' mid palate richness. The fine sandy tannins and French oak add to the texture to provide a wine with wonderful line and chiselled structure.

Taking its name from the ¾ tonne bell that sits atop the Wirra Wirra ironstone cellars, The Angelus fruit was sourced from vineyards aged between 40-65 years from the Seaview and McLaren Flat sub-regions of McLaren Vale and matured for 20 months in French Bordeaux oak.

Its line and length reflect an excellent year for Cabernet Sauvignon and its structure suggests long-term cellaring potential.

The opportunity to work with arguably the oldest grenache vineyard in McLaren Vale was a gift for Wirra Wirra Senior Winemaker Paul Smith and his offside Paul Carpenter and so, the **2010 The Absconder Grenache** was born.

The majority of the fruit for this limited release (300 dozen) came from Tony Blagrove's 95 year old vines just down the road from the winery in McLaren Flat. A couple of additional barrels were sourced from a "young site" – merely 90 years of age – in Blewitt Springs to complete the wine.

The wine was matured for 9 months in seasoned French puncheons and barriques. The oak varied in age from 5 - 7 years and was used almost as a "holding vessel" offering subtle oak flavour and tannin influence, rather than a means to heavily impact upon the wine.

The end result has greatly pleased Smith.

"We're really excited to be able to showcase the McLaren Vale region with the three flagship wines," said Paul, "but the chance to create a grenache that is such a pure expression of the vineyard is a memory that we will carry for some time and hope to do again in 2012."

The Absconder takes its name from a story concerning Wirra Wirra's original founder in 1894, Robert Strangways Wigley whose initials adorn the flagship shiraz and whose unmistakable presence graced McLaren Vale in the era the grenache vines were first planted. Wigley was an eccentric whose lust for life had at times seen him fall foul of the law in his home town of Adelaide. In fact, one episode involving the "acquisition" of the city's famous pie-cart and a joy ride through the cobbled streets was the catalyst for banishment to McLaren Vale. However Wigley did not abscond into the wilderness. He became known for his world class wines - including fortifieds made with the grenache of the day - and helped to build the reputation of McLaren Vale.

This selection of flagship wines is released under a new premium guise, featuring ceramic printing on the bottles and a pewter rendition of the famous Wirra Wirra logo. A presentation befitting the pride of place they take in the winery's portfolio.

2009 RSW Shiraz

Region: McLaren Vale

RRP: \$65.00

Release Date: October 2011

Alc: 14.5% pH: 3.4 TA: 7.4

Distribution: On-premise, fine wine retail and Cellar Door

2009 The Angelus Cabernet Sauvignon

Region: McLaren Vale

RRP: \$65.00

Release Date: October 2011

Alc: 14.5% pH: 3.5 TA: 7.4

Distribution: On-premise, fine wine retail and Cellar Door

2010 The Absconder Grenache

Region: McLaren Vale

RRP: \$65.00

Release Date: October 2011

Alc: 14.5% pH: 3.44 TA: 6.7

Distribution: On-premise, fine wine retail and Cellar Door

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