



# KAY BROTHERS PTY. LTD.

*Winemakers & Vignerons*

Established 1890 • McLaren Vale

## BLOCK 6 SHIRAZ



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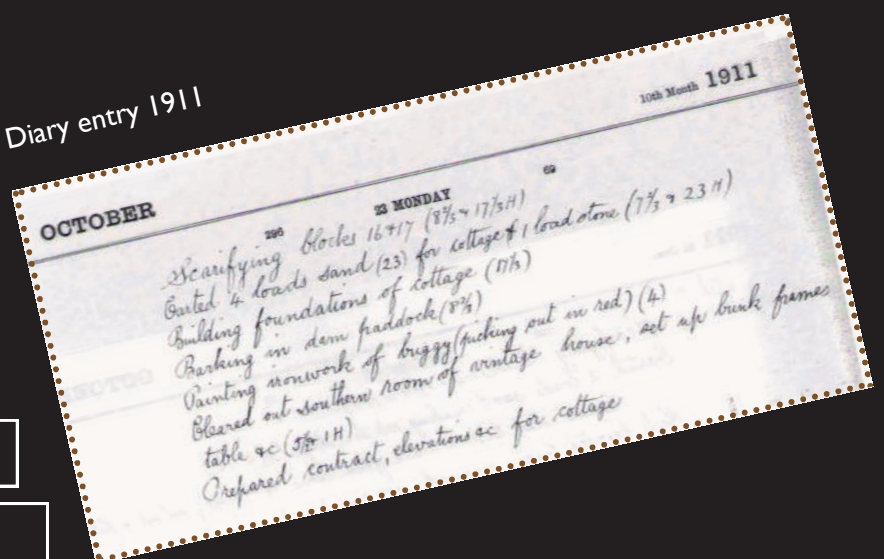
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## Welcome to Kay Brothers Spring news

Welcome to the latest edition of Kay Brothers news. We have had quite a number of Amery Wine Club members contacting us via email and phone in the past few weeks asking when the next vintage of the Block 6 Shiraz will be released. In previous years the release of our icon Shiraz has always been in October, and whilst we have opted for a more frequent and seasonal Newsletter approach, we thought we'd better keep to some of our traditions. Please find all the exciting information on our 25th release of Block 6 Shiraz inside this issue. In addition there are some other equally delicious

releases including a number of new vintages from the Basket Pressed range - Shiraz 2008, Grenache 2010, Mataro (Mouvedre) 2010 and Merlot 2010.

Read about the Grenache Master Classes hosted on 23rd of September as part of the celebrations of the 2nd International Grenache Day.

Further exciting news is that Colin and Ruth Kay have become grandparents. Daughter Elspeth and partner Martin are proud parents of a baby boy who was born on 17th September 2011 and named George Frederick Graham Kay.



Proud grandparents Ruth and Colin



The 2012 vintage is progressing well

## The vineyard - Colin Kay

The vineyards are all looking well. Budburst was a couple of weeks earlier than normal and by the time you read this I expect flowering will be well underway. We have had good winter rains and the subsoil is holding as much moisture as possible, the total of this winter and a very good carryover from last season. Often I am asked about now, what the next vintage will be like and I'm reminded of a wine industry identity who on being so

questioned responded, "great but not nearly as good as next vintage". Perhaps another way of saying don't count your chicks before they hatch! The season so far so good, apart from scattered hail early in October that has caused minor damage to shoots and leaves. How much this has affected the crop is too early to say.

## Winery developments - Andy Coppard

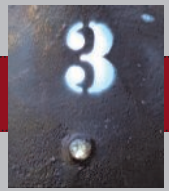
The last of the 2011 reds are just finishing malolactic fermentation (MLF), there are always a few stragglers. In general, all MLFs have taken longer to complete this year due to a late start to vintage (the second latest in our history) and an early start to winter (did we actually have a summer at all?!). Once the old stone-walled barrel cellars get cold, they stay cold and for this winter at least well below the temperature range that is optimum for

it to take place. It's all good though, when the quality makes the winemaker smile you know they will be worth the wait. I had not seen so much rain pre-vintage since 2002 in the Rhone. And like then, compared to now our fair share of mould to boot. Our ruthless approach at vintage to sort through the fruit in the vineyard so that only the cleanest and healthiest parcels arrived in the winery has paid dividends already.

The wines look fresh and brash as youngsters often want to do, but have depth and complexity that suggest they will be destined to mature and age very well. The mild growing season sans hot dry conditions that increase vine stress resulted in fruit that had a steady, gradual accumulation of flavour over an extended period of time. Ultimately the wines display the same qualities we had seen in the vineyard.



2011 wines look fresh and complex



## Trophy for Basket Pressed Shiraz 2008



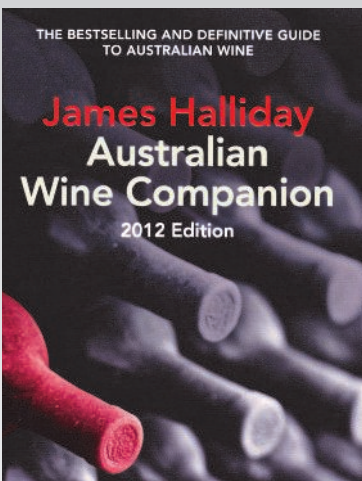
Basket Pressed Shiraz 2008 Trophy for best McLaren Vale Shiraz under \$25

2011 Cartesian McLaren Vale Wine Show  
Hot off the press 21st October

The Kay Brothers' team is very proud of the outstanding achievement for the Basket Pressed Shiraz 08, which is particularly pleasing as the Hillside Shiraz 08 won the Trophy for best McLaren Vale Shiraz in the price bracket \$25 to \$50 last year - a double whammy so to speak! Amongst the comments made from the judging panel was that "the top wines showed fine structure, intensity and regional integrity".



Andy & Colin with the Trophies



## James Halliday reviews 2008 Block 6 Shiraz

The James Halliday Australian Wine Companion 2012 was released in August this year and Kay Brothers is proud to have received its best rating to date! The Five Star rating for our winery highlights that Kay Brothers produces outstanding wines of very high quality - which places us in the elite of Australian wine

producers. Here are James Halliday's comments on Block 6 Shiraz 2008 - "Good hue and clarity; the full monty, the vines planted in 1892, the open fermentation vats made in 1897, and an old basket press used. Better still, there are none of the cooked fruit characters of '08, although the regional imprint is clear

enough; a really attractive medium - bodied shiraz with great texture and structure". Screwcap. 14.5% alc.  
**RATING 96 POINTS.**  
To 2038.

## 2nd International Grenache Day 23rd September 2011

The First Grenache Symposium in June 2010 was inspired by wine legend Stephen Spurrier. His suggestion to two Rhone producers, Domaine de Mourchon and Chene Bleu, was to hold a Grenache think-tank in the Southern Rhone. Over 250 top Grenache producers, journalists, and retailers from 23 countries came together to celebrate Grenache, which many people consider an unsung hero of the grape world. Versatile, velvety and voluptuous, it enhances blends, yet is capable of independently producing great wines that age beautifully. The

idea was borne for an International celebration of this variety - the 24th of September 2010 marked the first festivity. This year, the International Grenache Day celebration was held on Friday 23rd of September and we shared the passion for this grape variety at a special tasting event at Kay Brothers Cellar door with our Grenache Masterclasses. The focus of the tasting included two back vintages as well as the 2010 new release and a preview of the 2011 straight from the barrel. The wines were accompanied with delicious finger food.



Participants of Grenache Masterclass assessing the wines



## Block 6 Shiraz 2009 release October 2011

25th  
RELEASE



Block 6 Shiraz 2009 is the 25th release of this unique single vineyard wine. The original Shiraz vines were planted by Herbert and Frederick in 1892.

In 1984 Cuthbert and Colin Kay decided to vinify the Block 6 Shiraz fruit separately and since this vintage it has become our signature wine. There are obviously a lot of aspects which make this wine so very special - the vineyard heritage, the vineyard site, the traditional wine making approach, the longstanding experience of the Kay family, and its rarity.

Quintessentially, it is a truly iconic McLaren Vale Shiraz with individual expression of site and artisanal winemaking approach. The 2009 underlines this status perfectly - our only concern is that we have produced just tiny amounts as harvest volumes were down significantly in 2009 - the vintage information below will give you further insight.

### Colin Kay - Vintage 2009

"In all a tricky year. A dry and warm (relatively) '08 winter resulted in early budburst, then normal moist cool weather of spring round an early flowering gave us a poor fruit set. As subsoil moisture was non-existent, monitoring of irrigation and providing the vines with enough water strained all systems. It all came to a head with the extreme heat early February, water supply was re-

stricted and some vineyards just did not carry their fruit through. The result was one of the smallest crops we've recorded.

Block 6 exhibits excellent fruit weight and good structure with lower alcohols than we have seen for some years. How we have these elegant wines from this hard year I just don't understand, we count our blessings."

2009

**Block 6 Shiraz**

**Handpicked**

**from 117 year old vines**

**Colour:** Medium to Deep Purple.

**Bouquet:** Medium intensity. Fresh, aromatic and inviting. Roast beetroot, blackberry and rhubarb with a just of trace of cigar ash.

**Palate:** Medium intensity. Tight, complex, briary with predominately blackberry/rhubarb fruit flavours and smoky bacon fat. The tannins are firm and dry and with time will develop handsomely. The finish is firm and chewy with a warm savoury aftertaste.

Langton's  
Classification V  
2010



**Kay Brothers Block 6 Shiraz** continues its successful listing in the latest Langton's Classification V of Australian Wine released on 24th September 2010 which is only renewed every 5 years (Langton's Classification of Australian Wine is a benchmark of Australian wine investment. The Classification is a ranking of Australia's best performing wines based on market demand and vintages made).

This classification comprises four categories - Exceptional, Outstanding, Excellent, Distinguished, and Block 6 Shiraz is classed **Outstanding**. Perhaps another reason to secure some for the cellar, because it will develop beautifully.

### Vintage 2008

Could be summed up in 3 words - mild (growing season), early (harvest), hot (vintage heat wave). Fortunately we had completed our grape picking before the record March heat wave but sadly some growers were not as lucky as we were. The season, though early, was close to ideal with average rainfall, generally mild weather, a kind ripening period and mild picking conditions. This resulted in well coloured, flavour full fruit with good acidity and excellent grape yields. We were very pleased with the vintage grape quality and have the feeling that we were extremely fortunate that our grapes were not adversely affected by the weather. **The 2008 wines are great!** Release of Basket Pressed Shiraz 2008 page 5.

## New Releases October 2011

TROPHY WINNER



2008

### Basket Pressed Shiraz

**Colour:** Medium Purple.

**Bouquet:** Medium intensity. Rich blackberries, tobacco leaf and smokey bacon fat

**Palate:** Medium to full body. Upfront, rich and round in structure. Ripe mulberry and blackberry fruit flavours predominate with hints of cassis and dark, bitter chocolate. The tannins are ripe, furry,



2010

### Basket Pressed Grenache

**Colour:** Medium to Deep Purple.

**Bouquet:** Medium to full intensity. Fresh juicy fruit nose and bramble liquorice and prunes.

**Palate:** Medium body. Rich round mouth feel. Layers of flavour upfront and behind. Briary, prunes, liquorice, a hint of savoury bacon fat. Fine, elegant tannin structure. Warm lingering finish.



2010

### Basket Pressed Mataro

**Colour:** Medium to Deep Purple.

**Bouquet:** Medium intensity. Finely ground white pepper, raspberries and a hint of aniseed.

**Palate:** Medium to full body. Briary, raspberries, cinnamon and tobacco leaf predominate. Fine furry tannin structure. Firm dry finish.



2010

### Basket Pressed Merlot

**Colour:** Deep Purple.

**Bouquet:** Full intensity. Dark chocolate, blueberries and eucalypt.

**Palate:** Full bodied. Rich bitter dark chocolate, tobacco leaf and fresh blueberries. Firm chunky tannins. Lots of mid palate weight. Full persistent aftertaste.