

## Chris Hill Small Batch Series – Release No. 1

### McLaren Vale Shiraz

Per bottle: \$32.75

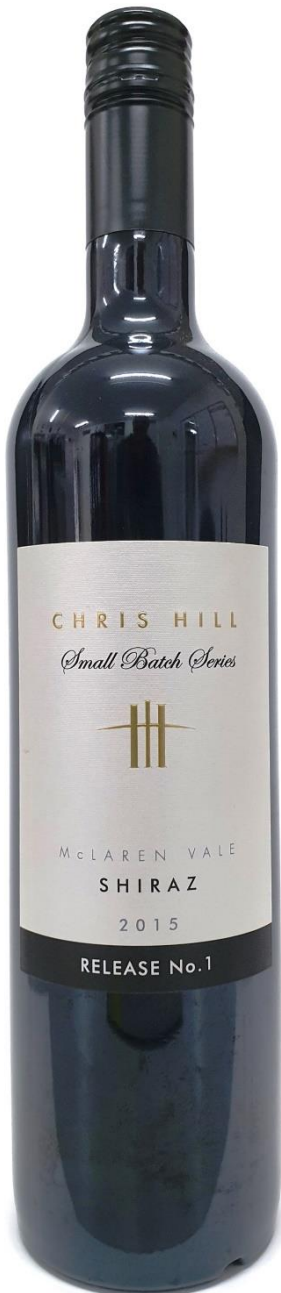
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**Region:** McLaren Vale, South Australia

**Vintage:** 2015

**Variety:** Shiraz

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#### **Summary**

This is the first release from my Small Batch project. A unique series of handcrafted wines. Initially aged for six months in new French oak, this wine was racked into three hogsheads and cellared for over five years before bottling. The extended aging process increases complexity as the acids and tannins develop softness and flavour with the gentle uptake of oxygen. It's now a very sophisticated, mature Shiraz with refined bouquet and luxurious flavours.

#### **Tasting Notes**

**Colour:** The colour is deep burgundy red with subtle mahogany notes and cherry red edges with long alcohol legs clinging to the glass.

**Aroma:** The bouquet shows a complex mix of dark berry fruit, earthy roast coffee beans and lovely, intense French oak. There's some fragrant, smokey spice elements with hints of olive tapenade, cured charcuterie and subtle sweet cocoa.

**Palate:** This is a solid and assertive wine with a full, rich palate. It opens with dark cherry fruit then builds with tobacco, earthy spices and medicinal herbs. The tannins are dry and powerful with an overarching component of toasty, smokey oak. It has a background of dusty pepper and anise spice. Balanced and long on the finish, it has a lingering, dry aftertaste with heady alcohol warmth.

**Food Matching:** This is a big wine with solid gripping tannins. Slow cooked lamb shanks or a thick juicy steak with a rich beef reduction are excellent food pairings while bitey, strong vintage cheeses and crispy lavosh are ideal after the meal.

**Cellaring Potential:** This is another of my late bottled wines. With nearly six years maturation before bottling, it's already balanced and in harmony. It will continue to cellar in bottle for many years and deliver delicious drinking. It's unfiltered and will develop a light crust over time, so with additional age, decanting is recommended.

#### **Other Information**

- 12 x 750ml bottles
- 15.0 % alc
- Screw cap closure
- Exclusive to Grays Online