



2006 KILIKANOON 'M' RESERVE SHIRAZ

WINEMAKER: Kevin Mitchell
REGION: McLaren Vale, South Australia
VARIETALS: Shiraz
MATURATION: 24 months in small French oak casks

BACKGROUND:

The 'M' Reserve Shiraz is produced from 40-year-old vines grown on an estate-owned vineyard in McLaren Vale. Located 110 miles south of Kilikanoon's Clare Valley landholdings, the vineyards here enjoy a warm, highly maritime climate, with vineyards rolling gently toward the Gulf of St Vincent on Australia's southern coast. The soils consist of sandy, silty loams over clay and deep, back alluvial silt over clay.

WINEMAKING:

Hand-harvested fruit is fermented in individual-batches in small open vessels. To aid in gentle color and tannin extraction, the wine is gently basket pressed prior to maturation in small French oak casks for a period of 24 months. Bottled unfinned and unfiltered, this prized vineyard's unique flavors and characters have been preserved to the fullest.

TASTING NOTES:

The role and influence of McLaren Vale's maritime climate is clearly apparent in this full bodied, perfumed wine. A powerful yet refined nose of black fruits, dark chocolate and perfumed charry oak is followed by brooking spices, chocolate and licorice on a velvety palate. Fine grained tannins and dried herbs pull the back palate together for a long, lingering finish.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 95 pts Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate, 93 pts Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, 92 pts Wine Enthusiast, 91 pts Wine Spectator

ABOUT KILIKANOON:

Founded in 1997 by Kevin Mitchell, Kilikanoon is a boutique Clare Valley winery with an international reputation for producing regionally expressive, terroir-driven wines. The Kilikanoon property, featuring a circa 1860s stone cottage housing Kilikanoon tasting room, was originally settled by early English migrants who named it after an historic old mansion in Cornwall. On purchasing the property in the 1990s, Kevin Mitchell inherited 30 year old Shiraz, Cabernet, Grenache and Riesling vineyards, many of which were planted by his father, Mort, in the 1960s. Fifteen years on, with the addition of partners Nathan Waks, a principal cellist with the Sydney Symphony, and Bruce Baudinet, Managing Director of Oracle Estates, Kilikanoon is rated by US and Australian critics as one of the Clare Valley's outstanding wineries, producing bracingly intense and long-lived Rieslings, along with powerful, yet balanced, Shiraz, Grenache and Cabernet Sauvignon.



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