



## Red Heads Studio 'Barrel Monkey's' Shiraz

McLaren Vale - Australia 2011

Back in 1987 we saw the start of something called "Flying Winemakers"...top young Aussie winemakers flying over to help with the European vintage. Shock! Horror! But...the new ideas, the energy, optimism and talent really benefitted Europe...and...Europe gave the Aussies a lot of ideas in return. Like Red Heads, for example.

See...the "flyers" got frustrated when they flew home to dull jobs in the mega wineries of the ho ho! "rationalized" Australian wine industry. They envied their French and

Italian mates who made just the wines they wanted to make. With no money to set up their own wineries, they just made a few barrels in garages. Fantastic wines came out of tin sheds! Wine shippers in Britain and the US loved the stuff. They got backing and set up Red Heads in an old bar that they bought on the road out of McLaren Vale to Barossa. This is now where the keenest winemakers come after work to "do their thing." British, American, Aussie and even French customers love the idea of these red wine "heads" fanatically working away through the night making the great little wines they always wanted to make.

What is a Barrel Monkey you ask? It is an oft-description of the fellas and ladies jumping from barrel to barrel ensuring the quality of the wine. In short it is a slang term referring to the 'real' winemakers (assistants). This was a project born of the vision of many of the top 'barrel monkeys' of the McLaren Vale. 100% Shiraz, from three sites in the Vale. This sees all American wood and a lot of love to go with it. Low yields, old vines, and fresh and terroir driven sites. This wine has a lift to it that many 'blockbusters' lack.

### Composition

100% Shiraz

### Average Vine Age

32 years old

### Production

3,500 cases

### Soil Type

Shallow Grey Sandy Loam over Clay

### Élevage

14 months in American Hogsheads (50% new)

### Tasting Notes



Supple, succulent and generous, with pure blackberry and purple plum flavors, hinting at vanilla and cream as the intense finish lingers on a medium-weight frame.



### Reviews

Wine Spectator (Harvey Steiman) | 91 points