

Shiraz No Longer King Of The Vale



S.C. PANNELL
WINEMAKER

Stephen Pannell was recognized for his outstanding winemaking at today's McLaren Vale Wine Show, his 2010 Tempranillo Touriga winning two trophies for Other Blends and Best Small Producer. SC Pannell Wines also won the Grenache Trophy.

Accordingly, SC Pannell Wines received the annual competition's most coveted prize, The Bushing King, which recognizes the region's most awarded producer.

Pannell was delighted by the result, commenting: "For me, the real significance is for the region, and perhaps the beginning of a shift away from the dominance of traditional, single varietal wines winning trophies. McLaren Vale has an amazingly textured landscape, and we should be more courageous and adventurous in trying to pursue that."

The McLaren Vale Wine Show has long been recognized as one of the country's top regional competitions, and the Bushing King title has historically been dominated by more continental wine styles such as Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon. This year's result, and SC Pannell Wine's ongoing focus on the Mediterranean styles that can come from blends of Grenache, Tempranillo, and Touriga Nacional, may well set a new direction for the region.

McLaren Vale is equally celebrated for its strong food and wine culture: farmers markets and artisan producers ranging from bakers to olive oil producers and cheese-makers, as well as the fish and seafood from the pristine waters of the southern Fleurieu. It is this environment that has inspired Pannell to strive to produce lighter wines with a weight, texture and flavour profile that better match the local climate and cuisine.

"With our Mediterranean climes we can produce an amazing array of wines and styles, and blending with Grenache is certainly one of the ways forward for McLaren Vale. We should be looking for lighter, more characterful wines - less dominated by oak and singular, sweet palates - which still speak of place and interest." Pannell explained.

“In a sense, the region is starting to recognize a traditional insight that dates back to Dr AC Kelly in the 1860s, who originally advocated these varieties as more sustainable and more suitable for our region. They demand fewer nutrients, use less water, and ‘speak’ more authentically of our natural environment and our unique, coastal influence.”

For further information on the full range of SC Pannell Wines please visit www.scpannell.com.au or contact Stephen Pannell on 0418 814 617

Editors Notes:

McLaren Vale Bushing King:

A tradition that has been carried out in the region since the 1970s, the Bushing King and Queen is selected from winemakers receiving trophies in the McLaren Vale Wine Show. The Bushing King or Queen award goes to the best wine of the show. The tradition was taken from Elizabethan times when English Tavern owners would place ivy bushes above their tavern doors to celebrate and mark the arrival of the new vintage wine, or fresh mead.

Gold Medals

- 2009 Touriga Tempranillo, *class 45, All Red Blends*
- 2010 Tempranillo Touriga, *class 23*
- 2005 Shiraz, *class 27 Shiraz (2006 older)*
- 2010 Grenache, *class 13 Grenache (2010 Older)*

Trophies

- 2010 Tempranillo Touriga, *Lacey Memorial Best Small Producer.*
- 2010 Tempranillo Touriga *class 23 AP John Coopers Best McLaren Vale Red Blend*
- 2010 Grenache, *class 13 Edinburgh Hotel & Cellars Trophy Best McLaren Vale Grenache*