

# Mr. Riggs

McLaren Vale



## Regional Series

### 2016 Mr. Riggs The Gaffer Shiraz

The Regional Series is all about paying homage to whence they came. After all, the aim of all Mr. Riggs wines is to express the essence of the vineyard and varieties.

#### History

Named in honour of John "The Gaffer" Riggs (1814 - 1902), the great grandfather of winemaker Ben Riggs, this McLaren Vale blended Shiraz was made to acknowledge 150 years of the Riggs family's rich farming heritage in South Australia. It began with the arrival of "The Gaffer" of Dorsetshire, who settled in the Gawler region in 1855. One of South Australia's best farmers, he came to own hundreds of acres dedicated to quality wheat cropping. His sheep flock was highly regarded and his methods progressive. Success in the wheat trade was enjoyed at horticulture exhibitions including medals in London, Paris and Sydney. "I like to think my interest in the land and passion for its offerings is directly attributable to my farsighted ancestor", says Ben.

#### Vineyard

Grapes for "The Gaffer" have been sourced from the best vineyards from a variety of McLaren Vale's best sites. A tried and tested area for growing full-flavoured Shiraz, McLaren Vale has almost the perfect climate for grape growing; warm summers, low humidity, good winter rain and long Autumns to ensure that grapes achieve ripeness, flavour, acid and balance. Vintage 2016 experienced small yield, however, a yield of great quality grapes that produced elegant, pretty, feminine Shiraz. The winter was relatively normal, very wet like preceding vintages 2014 & 2015. The soil moisture was favourable, leading into the spring. January was very warm, and winds were very strong which contributed to a loss in yield. Overall, a favourable vintage that led to great quality Shiraz.

#### Wine

The simple black and white packaging proudly wears a splash of pink boasting an impressive contribution of \$125,000 to the Flinders Medical Centre Foundation (FMCf) and their fight against cancer. The Gaffer 2016 Shiraz is a testament to the best of McLaren Vale. Charming, immense, and immensely affable, the Gaffer 2016 is outstanding. A firm aromatic slap of blackcurrant precedes rose, thyme, and paprika, and these heady notes complex into cherry wood, white pepper, and vanilla on the palate. All of this is matched to the texture of velour, but with much more style. "The Gaffer" is a flavoursome, fruit driven, full bodied Shiraz that is exceptionally well balanced and assured to please the palate... with a touch of PINK!

#### Technical Details

pH:	3.51
TA:	6.73
Alc/Vol:	14.5%
Bottling date:	26th July 2017
Winemaker:	Ben Riggs

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