

# EPICUREAN WINES



## De Lisio Shiraz-Grenache 'The Catalyst' 2005

McLaren Vale



### Winery Background

During a visit to Australia in June of 2004 Benjamin Hammerschlag was assessing the portfolio of another young winemaker in McLaren Vale. During the tasting, the parcels that stood out time and again had come from Tony De Lisio's vineyards. The impression stuck and yielded an extensive tasting of De Lisio's wines. Consistently impressed, Hammerschlag approached De Lisio and discovered an Italian immigrant with 30 years of experience in McLaren Vale. De Lisio's talents lie in the vineyard and his connection to other immigrants in the region give him access to some of the best fruit in the district which happen to meet the classic Epicurean Wines criteria; phenomenal raw materials transformed into wines that are jam-packed with intensity.

### Winemaking

Since Tony De Lisio makes really great Shiraz and equally impressive Grenache, it should come as no surprise that he decided to blend the two. This latest addition to the De Lisio line-up is made from 82% Shiraz and 18% Grenache that was aged in 30% new French oak for 26 months..

### Viticulture

The Shiraz is sourced from a vineyard that De Lisio calls the 'rock block' as it is on very shallow soil over limestone & slate on Onkaparinga Ridge. The Grenache comes from a 70-year old vineyard in the Blewitt Springs district of McLaren Vale

### Analytical

*Grapes:* 82% Shiraz, 18% Grenache

*Yields:* 3 tons/acre (shiraz), 2.5 tons/acre (Grenache)

*Aging:* 26 months in French oak, 30% new

*Vintage:* After a reasonably wet winter, vines burst well with good early shoot growth. As a consequence large canopies played a part in the faster-than-usual ripening period. McLaren Vale had a milder-than-usual summer with very few days of extreme temperatures, resulting in an excellent, even ripening.

*Alc/Vol:* 15.5%

### Press

92 Pts. "...offers a brooding nose of wood smoke, Asian spices, pepper, blueberry, and blackberry liqueur. Lush on the palate, it has mouth-filling fruit, tons of spicy blue and black fruit flavors, enough structure to evolve for several years, and a long, fruit-filled finish..."

*The Wine Advocate 10-30-07*

### Notes

