

EPICUREAN WINES



McLaren Vale Shiraz

The Chronicle Wine Selections, February 22, 2008

“Located in South Australia, McLaren Vale lies south of Adelaide and is home to many vintners who specialize in making deep, dark Shiraz...

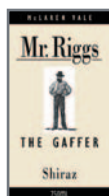
San Francisco Chronicle

...Long, warm days ripen grapes, while cooling afternoon sea breezes from the Gulf Saint Vincent help maintain acidity ... McLaren's flavor profile blends dark plum and berry fruit with spice, chocolate and warm oak. The Shirazes tasted are balanced, with varying levels of tannin and acidity; some also have earthier notes and herb hints. Most alcohol levels are in the 14.5 percent range and offer a balance of good fruit and acidity; they aren't overtly hot on either nose or palate. The best bottles have fine tannins and good structure to support some aging.

Several of our recommended wines rise above the \$50 mark, but they are excellent examples of the layered and engaging Shiraz that McLaren Vale can produce. ...”



THREE STARS 2006 Mr. Riggs McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$55) Riggs has done it again, with an impeccably balanced big wine. Aromas of dark cherry, coarse pepper, honey-baked ham and lovely toasty grain, caramel and vanilla from the oak seamlessly segue to a refined palate with layers of soft, concentrated fruit balanced with chamomile, baking spice and leather.



TWO STARS 2006 Mr. Riggs The Gaffer McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$21) Winemaker Ben Riggs named this wine after his great-great-great-grandfather. Toasted grain, sweet black fruit and soft cinnamon spice meld with orange zest and lovely textural tannins.



TWO STARS 2005 Penny's Hill McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$32) Ben Riggs makes this estate wine for Tony and Susie Parkinson. Aromas of licorice and fresh spring ginger surround cassis and uplifted ripe raspberry and black-berry overtones. This wine shows a bit more fruit on the palate; a healthy dose of finely grained tannins balances the alcohol on the long finish.



TWO STARS 2005 Expatriate McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$56) There's a touch of rusticity in this Shiraz's nose, which is produced by winemaker Corrina Rayment for Oliver's Taranga Vineyard. There's barnyard and some green notes balanced by a hint of brown sugar; the wine's black fruit acidity, softer tannins and slight astringency will do well with food.

Additional recommended wines: 2005 De Lisio Krystina McLaren Vale Shiraz & 2005 S.C. Pannell McLaren Vale Shiraz

811 First Avenue, Suite 525 Seattle, WA 98104 Phone 206.923.1376 Fax 206.923.0173 info@epicureanwines.com

