

BRICK KILN

The Mortar

Spring Newsletter 2011



EXCITING TIMES AT BRICK KILN

A Cellar Door!

After a decade building the Brick Kiln brand since buying our shiraz vineyard in McLaren Vale in 2001, we are now entering an exciting new stage. We are opening a Cellar Door at Red Poles Restaurant in McMurtrie Road at McLaren Vale (just opposite Wirra Wirra) to increase access to our wines for visitors to McLaren Vale. We are delighted to be establishing the facility at Red Poles in conjunction with Ros Miller, as this excellent restaurant has been a great supporter of our shiraz for a number of years. The Cellar Door (Brick Kiln at Red Poles) will be open from November 1st during Red Poles opening hours (1000 to 1700, Wednesday to Sunday)

Proposed signage



AROUND AUSTRALIA

Carlie Hayward, who managed the vineyard from the inception of Nine Gums in January 2001, headed off to the rather more lucrative Roxby Downs to work in the radiation lab at BHP.

Tim Hunt took over the vineyard management in 2008. Tim is a Fleurieu man born and bred, with his father's vineyard down the road from Nine Gums and his 40 acre shiraz vineyard just up the road. We are pleased to report that the vineyard is in very good hands.

'NEW' BRICK KILN WINES

In setting up the Cellar Door, we recognised that we would need a greater range of wines for tasting other than the Brick Kiln and The Grove shirazes. Thus, we commissioned Linda Domas, one of our marvellous winemakers, to make a rose from our shiraz from the 2011 harvest. We also decided that we should have a white wine for tasting, and we bought some McLaren Vale pinot grigio made by Linda Domas from grapes grown on the nearby Sabella Vineyard. She has made a lovely white wine which shows off the zesty flavours of this increasingly popular Italian variety.

In addition, Linda is now "bottle fermenting" some Brick Kiln 2009 Shiraz to make a 2009 Brick Kiln Sparkling Shiraz. Thus, visitors to the Brick Kiln Cellar Door will be able to taste and purchase five different wines either to complement their meal in Red Poles Restaurant or for future consumption elsewhere!

The new labels:

Brick Kiln Sparkling Shiraz 2009
Brick Kiln Shiraz Rose 2011
Brick Kiln Pinot Grigio 2011

SUCCESS AT THE EDINBURGH GREAT SHIRAZ CHALLENGE

The show season was kicked off by the Edinburgh Great Shiraz Challenge in July and the 2008 Brick Kiln did spectacularly well. Well over 300 wines were available for tasting and our wine came in 29th in the popular vote of the hundreds of patrons. This was a great result as 20 of the 28 wines ahead of us were more expensive than Brick Kiln, with many of them well over \$50.

BRICK KILN



2009 VINTAGE RELEASE

We will soon release the 2009 Brick Kiln shiraz (92 points Halliday) which is a worthy successor to the exceptionally popular 2008 vintage. We are confident that our mail order, restaurant and function customers as well as our international partners and consumers will be delighted with the quality of this wine.

2010 & 2011 BRICK KILN SHIRAZ

The 2010 has now been in oak for 18 months and is looking absolutely terrific. We plan to bottle this before the end of the year (to release some old oak for the 2012!!) and predict that this wine will be one of the best Brick Kilns. The 2011 is also happily in oak and looking very good. This year was difficult for many, but fortunately we harvested (at 14.5 baume) just before the week long rain began.

OVERSEAS CONNECTIONS

Malcolm & Alison Mackinnon have recently been in the U.K. where they visited Pierre Mansour (buyer Australia NZ) and Sebastian Payne M.W. (Chief Wine Buyer) at the Wine Society in Stevenage in Hertfordshire. The Society purchased our 2004, 2005 and 100 cases of the 2008 Brick Kiln which rapidly sold out as it was voted best red wine at a number of their recent tastings. They tasted the soon to be released 2009 vintage and really liked it, so we are confident that the Wine Society will continue to import Brick Kiln Shiraz for some time to come.

Our Canadian partners, Garry & Nancy Watson are exploring the possibility of Brick Kiln being listed by the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) which would make it more readily available in Canada. Staff from the LCBO visited McLaren Vale in September to consider wines for LCBO importation, and we hope for a positive outcome which would benefit the myriad of Brick Kiln drinkers in Canada.

Closer to home we also continue to export to Singapore (with a new recently appointed distributor - Equatorial Wines) and Hong Kong, and are currently seeking a new partner in China, a potentially enormous market.

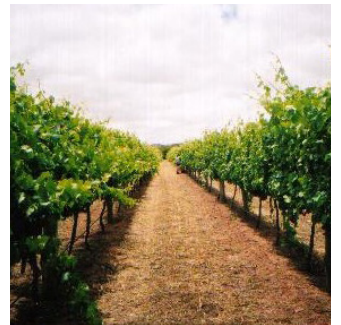
Malcolm with son Toby
en route to The Wine Society



Operating the sophisticated
warehouse equipment



Nine Gums Vineyards



BRICK KILN

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Cellar Door Red Poles
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