

SPECIAL ISSUE | ANNUAL BUYING GUIDE

Wine & Spirits

100
BEST
WINES

100
BEST
BUYS

100
WINERIES
OF THE
YEAR



WINTER 2005
\$6 US • CANADA \$8
wineandspiritmagazine.com

PRSRRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 184
Dulles, VA

OFF SALE DECEMBER 15TH



Peter Fraser



YANGARRA ESTATE

Yangarra is a new project in McLaren Vale, based in the foothills area called Blewitt Springs. Jackson Wine Estates International hired Peter Fraser to oversee their Yangarra project in January '01; he'd been working at Norman Wines, so he was well acquainted with the 420-acre estate Yangarra purchased from Normans later that year. Of the 240 acres of vines, the oldest on the property were planted in 1946, dry-farmed grenache grown in ancient sand. These provide fruit for Yangarra's Old Vine Grenache, as well as their blend of grenache, shiraz and mourvedre. Both these wines come from the Yangarra Estate itself, where the grapes are handpicked, then taken through an open-top fermentation that's traditional in the region.

It's Fraser's third wine, a shiraz he blends 50 percent from estate-grown grapes and 50 percent harvested from a vineyard in the Seaview Hills, which earned Yangarra this *Winery of the Year* title. Both the '02 and '03 McLaren Vale Shiraz are exceptional wines, contrasting freshness against the ripeness and power of McLaren Vale fruit. That freshness comes from the cool nights high up in the foothills that extend the growing season into April. Fraser is going for dark, ripe wines—the Grenache is 15.8 percent alcohol, the GSM 15.5 percent—but this shiraz transforms its alcohol (at 15 percent) into intensity, the '02 especially. It's a dark, violet-tinged wine, the tension between the fruit and tannin extending the flavor long after each sip. The '03 sets luscious ripe fruit against the sort of sandy, mineral tannins McLaren Vale builds into its best shiraz. —J.G.

4 wines tasted, 3 recommended

93 '02 McLaren Vale Shiraz \$20 (2/05)

91 '03 McLaren Vale Shiraz \$25 (10/06)

84 '02 McLaren Vale Red Blend \$20 (2/05)

Founded: 2001 **Winemaker:** Peter Fraser **Acres owned:** 420, with 240 planted **Annual production:** N/A **Estate grown:** N/A **Owner:** Jackson Wine Estates Int'l. **Known for:** Ripe McLaren Vale shiraz **Imported by:** Sovereign Wine Imports, Santa Rosa, CA **Website:** yangarra.com