



S.C. Pannell

2020

AGLIANICO

Red Wine | McLaren Vale - Australia



NATURAL



ORGANIC



VEGAN

Stats

Grapes: 100% Aglianico

Vineyard: Oliver's Road (McLaren Vale)

Vine Age: 8-years-old

Soil Type: Iron-rich siltstone over limestone

Viticulture: Sustainable

Fermentation: Native — stainless-steel

Skin Contact: 26 days

Aging: 12 months in French oak puncheons

Alcohol: 14%

pH: 3.42

Total Acidity: 7.6 g/L

Total SO₂: 56 ppm

Total Production: 275 cases

UPC: None

Reviews

The Wine Front | 94 points

Wine Advocate | 94 points

About

The truly wondrous thing about great wine is that it speaks of where it comes from. That sense of having come from a discrete site or location and capable of reflecting those characters in its shape and location. One of the top three Italian red varieties along with Nebbiolo and Sangiovese, Aglianico is often referred to as the Nebbiolo of the south. While it has an ability to covert site specific nuances it always preserves its identity. A combination and balance of rustic charm, defined acidity, powerful flavor and most importantly strong tannin. This all makes for a good translation on the Oliver's Road site, but how best to describe a vintage in a pandemic? Problematic. A dry start to the season with lower than expected winter and spring rainfall followed by a day of intense heat right on flowering lead to some early anxiety around yields. Fires and the devastation they bring struck around Christmas and many of their growers losing the livelihoods weighed heavy as they went into vintage. Thankfully the days got cooler sooner than anticipated allowing long even ripening.

The grapes were hand-picked in early April, fermented in an open top fermenter spending 26 days on skins and receiving daily pump overs before being sent to puncheons for maturation and malolactic fermentation. The wines were bottled without fining or filtration in July 2021, with just a small dose of sulfur.

Tasting Notes

This is a classic example of a red variety with natural tannin grown in a warm place. On the nose there is chinotto, new leather, old furniture, spicy red pepper, deeply flavored dark fruit, walnuts and Italian sausage thrown in for good measure. The palate is loaded with Maraschino cherry, satsuma plum, dusty earth and terracotta. This wine has a tannic tail that beckons the next sip.