

Ministry of Clouds

Sourced from the steeply sloped Chase Vineyard in the Onkaparinga Gorge, this Shiraz captures both power and finesse, with intense fruit flavors layered over a mineral-driven structure.

MINISTRY OF CLOUDS



Onkaparinga Rocks Shiraz 2021

McLaren Vale, Australia

Region and Vineyards

The **Chase Vineyard** is perched on a steep, south-facing slope in the Onkaparinga Gorge in McLaren Vale. This site is defined by an ancient bedrock of **sandstone, slaty siltstone, and rock formations dating back 650 million years**, making it one of the oldest vineyard geologies worldwide. This rocky soil profile limits vine yield, concentrating flavors and lending a distinctive minerality to the wine. The region's warm days and cooling breezes from the Onkaparinga Gorge provide an ideal microclimate for Shiraz, producing wines of intensity and depth.

The vineyard's low-yielding vines benefit from meticulous management, and the grapes are **harvested at night** to retain their natural freshness and aromatic delicacy. This unique terroir, combined with careful viticulture, results in a Shiraz with a profound sense of place and a structure built for aging.

Winemaking

The **Onkaparinga Rocks Shiraz** is crafted with **100% Shiraz**. After the night harvest, the grapes are gently destemmed, retaining **80% whole berries** and a small portion as whole bunches. Fermentation occurs in traditional open vats, with daily hand plunging to control color and tannin extraction. Following fermentation, the wine is **basket-pressed** into a combination of old and new **French oak puncheons** for **12 months of maturation**.

This approach preserves the integrity of the fruit while adding subtle oak complexity. The wine's final profile is a balance of vibrant, crunchy fruit and a mineral-rich tannic structure, showcasing the unique character of the Onkaparinga Rocks vineyard.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep, dark ruby with purple hues.
- **Aroma**: Lifted aromas of blue and black fruits, with hints of garrigue herbs, plums, and a shy presence of French oak.
- **Palate**: Bold and structured, with layers of juicy plum, blackberry, and herbal notes. The texture is firm and mineral-laden, supported by a fine tannic backbone and a lingering finish.

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 100% Syrah

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Did You Know?

The Onkaparinga Gorge, where **The Chase Vineyard** is located, has soils that date back 650 million years, making them some of the oldest soils used for grape growing. This ancient geology provides a distinct mineral character and limits yields, creating a wine with great concentration and aging potential.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Slow-cooked Middle Eastern lamb shoulder on couscous**: The wine's structure and depth complement the richness of the lamb.
- **Herb-crusted roast beef with root vegetables**: Enhances the earthy and herbal undertones in the wine.
- **Braised short ribs with red wine sauce**: The bold fruit and tannins balance well with the hearty flavors of the ribs.
- **Aged hard cheeses, like Manchego or Pecorino Romano**: Complements the wine's mineral structure and enhances its complexity.

97

Robert Parker (RP) : 97 Points (2019)

The 2019 Single Vineyard Onkaparinga Rocks Shiraz comes from a vineyard that is planted over very old, ancient rock and is separated from Blewitt Springs by about two kilometers. As with the Blewitt Springs Shiraz, the fruit spent 30 days on the skins, with minimal bunches in the ferment and matured in second and third fill French puncheons, with a long élevage. Featuring soft tannins and plush fruit, this is a beautiful wine that is sympathetic to site; it is both elegant and plush and layered with minerality and crushed rocks. It is bloody with iodine, and there's a rocky, structural element to the tannins. Boom. What a wine.