

Ministry of Clouds

A reserve Rhône blend from elevated Clarendon and surrounding McLaren Vale sites, channeling old-bush-vine intensity into lithe lines: red florals, garrigue and blue-fruited depth over sandy tannins and a mineral hum.

MINISTRY OF CLOUDS



Kintsugi 2021

McLaren Vale, Australia

Region and Vineyards

McLaren Vale lies about 30 km south of Adelaide, bracketed by the Gulf St Vincent and the Adelaide Hills. Warm to hot summers are moderated by maritime and upland winds; growing-season rainfall is typically <200 mm. A mosaic of soils and elevations from sea level to ~350 m translates into diverse microclimates, with higher, cooler pockets delivering fresher acidity and finer tannin profiles.

Kintsugi focuses on **Clarendon**, a higher, cooler northern sector where **old bush vines (1922)** on **dry-grown** slopes give floral lift, garrigue complexity and sinewy tannins. Grenache from the Smart family's historic Clarendon vineyard forms the core, blended with **Carignan** from the estate's The Chase vineyard for succulence and spice, and 10% **Mataro** for blue-fruited depth and structural bass. Sub-regional identities such as Clarendon have become increasingly prized for Grenache in McLaren Vale, underscoring terroir transparency in blends like this.

Winemaking

Composed of **55% Grenache, 35% Carignan and 10% Mataro**, Kintsugi is assembled from the estate's favourite ferments in the vintage, selected for purity, a distinctive tannin line and capacity for savoury longevity. The Grenache hails from the Smart family's **1922** plantings at Clarendon; Carignan is from the home site (The Chase) and Mataro is dry-grown.

Ferments were matured in **old puncheons** on fine lees to build texture without overt oak, then given **a year in bottle** prior to release. Bottled **unfined but filtered** at **14.8% vol.** in **December 2021**. Serve at **16 °C** and give a generous decant to unlock spice, florals and mineral length; this cuvée privileges structure and persistence over early fruit sweetness.

Alcohol :14,80 %

Composition: 55% Grenache, 35% Carignan, 10% Mataro

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Tasting Notes

- **Color** Deep ruby with a dark-hued core; youthful brightness at the rim.
- **Aroma** Red cherry, rose and wild herbs over cardamom and five-spice from old -vine Grenache; hints of violet and blue fruits from Mataro.
- **Palate** Layered, long and tightly coiled; crunchy red-berried core, persistent sandy tannins and bright acidity drive a savoury, mineral finish.

Did you know?

Kintsugi is the Japanese art of "golden joinery", repairing broken ceramics with lacquer and gold to celebrate imperfection. The name mirrors this blend's philosophy: assembling the **best parcels** so the whole exceeds the sum of its parts.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Paprika-spiced roast chicken**: the wine's bright acidity and sandy tannins cleanse the palate and echo warm spice.
- **Moroccan couscous with chorizo, kale, pistachio & preserved lemon**: savoury depth and citrus lift dovetail with the blend's spice and minerality.
- **Grilled lamb with rosemary and lemon**: garrigue notes and blue-fruited depth complement herbed, charry lamb.
- **Charred eggplant with harissa & tahini**: sweet-smoky richness meets the wine's spice and firm structure.

97

Robert Parker (RP) : 97 Points (2021)

Hailing from the magnificent 2021 season, the 2021 Kintsugi Grenache is lead by Grenache (55%), Carignan (35%) and Mataro (10%). Aromatically, the wine leads with dried herbs and wild game, arnica root and even mustard seed. This is exotically spiced, savory and has a real "of the earth" feeling, without being rustic or unpolished. The tannins are more sinewy and lean than in other cuvées tasted here today, however this definition in the mouth is attractive and certainly more "classically styled," if that is indeed a valid descriptor. This is bloody, bony and autumnal in its way. It has notes of cracked leaf litter, iodine, ferrous and ironstone. The fruit is Smart Grenache and estate-owned Carignan, both co-fermented, and the Mataro is from Springs Hill. 14.8% alcohol, sealed under screw cap.