

Climbing

2005 CLIMBING SHIRAZ

Defined by altitude, Orange is one of Australia's highest and coolest wine regions starting at 600 metres above sea level. The name Climbing is an active reference to our high altitude vineyard and our continual quest for greater achievement. The vines are low yield, providing intense flavours and even berry ripening.

The wines exhibit tremendous vibrancy, whilst retaining the elegance characteristic of the high altitude terroir.

VINTAGE CONDITIONS

2005 was an ideal growing season, characterised by low crops in a warm, dry year – other than some light rains just before harvest.

Fruit for this wine was sourced from two prime blocks, one with limestone soil and the other an elevated section with stony, red soil. Crops were kept low at around 6 tonnes per hectare, so as to intensify flavour.

Harvest was mid March with the fruit picked at a sugar level of 13.5 – 14 degree Baume. The grapes showed good acidity and balance, capturing plum like flavours and avoiding any overripe character.

WINEMAKER NOTES

Winemaker: Philip Shaw

Region: Orange, New South Wales

Alcohol: 14.0%

Winemaking notes: The Shiraz fruit was destemmed, cold macerated then inoculated with cultured yeast to initiate fermentation. Juice was pumped over 2-3 times a day early in the ferment, slowing down to daily towards the end of ferment.

Once dry, the wine macerated on skins for 5 -10 days to gently extract fine grape tannins. A small portion was taken off skins and transferred to oak for maturation. The wine was then blended, egg white fined, racked, filtered and bottled August 2006.

Maturation: The wine is aged in 100% American Barriques for 12 months.

Tasting Notes: Winemaker Philip Shaw describes this wine as “having good intense colour, rich vibrant fruit and a touch of oak with intense plum fruit dominating. What I like about this wine is that under the plum, some white pepper flavours are emerging, very typical of the Orange region.

The Climbing 2005 Shiraz will evolve well with up to 10 years cellaring.”

Awards: Silver, 2006 Royal Melbourne Wine Show
Bronze, 2006 Royal Perth Show
Bronze, 2006 Orange Wine Show

