



Dandelion Vineyards  
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## Dandelion Vineyards, `Lion`s Tooth of McLaren Vale` Shiraz/Riesling 2014

### PRODUCER

Dandelion Vineyards is the venture of self-titled 'typist' Zar Brooks, his winemaking wife Elena and growers Carl Lindner and Brad Rey, with wines made from the Barossa and Eden Valleys, Fleurieu and McLaren Vale. Nick Stock, one of Australia's leading journalists, has described Dandelion as follows: 'Brooks has teamed up with his winemaking wife Elena, a woman whose talents are outweighed only by her tolerance, in an exciting new venture called Dandelion Vineyards. The approach is remarkably simple and sees Elena making wine from a suite of beautiful old vineyards identified by Carl Lindner and Brad Rey across that blessed curve that runs from the Barossa, up through the Eden Valley and Adelaide Hills and down into McLaren Vale.'

### VINEYARDS

The word Dandelion, from Dente de Lion means Lion's Tooth. From this vineyard, Elena co-ferments an almost forgotten but traditional and timeless blend of Shiraz and Riesling to enhance the wine's perfume and palate. They encourage the growth of dandelions in the vineyard as they suppress winter weeds and provide mulch in summer. Soils are sandy loam and Pirramimma sandstone.

### VINTAGE

Despite a few heat events and a lack of rain in January, McLaren Vale ended up having a gentle ripening period and near perfect conditions for flavour development, thanks to welcome rain and moderated temperatures in February, which freshened up the vines and allowed the grapes to ripen in a steadily pattern.

### VINIFICATION

Flavour-ripe Shiraz grapes were hand harvested in late February, then fermented on their stalks in open fermenters on top of some Riesling skins for 11 days. The grapes were hand plunged twice daily, before basket pressing into 15% new and older French oak barriques. After 18 months maturation in the same oak, the wine was bottled without filtration or fining.

### TASTING NOTES

Deep red in colour with hints of violet. Aromas of rose petals, lifted red fruits and a little lime marmalade from the co-fermentation with the aromatic Eden Valley Riesling. Wild cherries, blueberries and balanced spicy oak make for an opulent palate, with velvety tannins and an intriguing finish.



### VINTAGE INFORMATION

<b>Vintage</b>	2014
<b>Region</b>	McLaren Vale, South Australia
<b>Grape Varieties</b>	95% Syrah/Shiraz 5% Riesling
<b>Winemaker</b>	Elena Brooks
<b>Closure</b>	Stelvin
<b>ABV</b>	14%
<b>Bottle Sizes</b>	75cl