



RUSTY MUTT

2016 RUSTY MUTT VERMILION BIRD SHIRAZ

THE NAME

"I called my wine range 'Rusty Mutt' as I was born in the Year of The Metal Dog in Chinese Astrology. Metal Dog was then 'Australianised' to **Rusty Mutt**."

"The **Vermilion Bird Shiraz** is a wine that sits above, drawing on Chinese astrology, where the southern sky is guarded by the Vermilion Bird. This celestial realm includes Canis Major and Canis Minor, home to the Dog Star Sirius." – Scott Heidrich (owner / winemaker)

VINTAGE CONDITIONS

The 2016 McLaren Vale vintage was marked by a cool, slow-ripening season that delivered exceptional balance and purity. Mild spring conditions ensured even flowering, while moderate summer temperatures allowed grapes to develop concentrated flavours and fine tannins.

Harvest progressed steadily, producing vibrant reds with rich dark-fruited intensity and silky structure, and whites with lifted aromatics and crisp, refreshing acidity. Overall, 2016 showcased elegance, precision, and varietal expression, resulting in wines of finesse, balance, and excellent aging potential.

WINEMAKERS NOTES

Deep, inky red with purple hues, this wine displays a powerful, vibrant presence. The nose opens with layered aromas of dark berries, plum, and black cherry, intertwined with hints of mocha, spice, and subtle oak.

On the palate, concentrated black fruit and chocolate nuances are supported by fine, structured tannins and balanced acidity, leading to a long, plush finish. Elegant yet intensely expressive.

FOOD MATCH

Pairs beautifully with grilled lamb, peppered steak, or rich mushroom dishes; also complements aged cheeses and hearty winter stews.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Winemaker: Scott Heidrich

Region: McLaren Vale

Varietal: Shiraz

Winemaking: Open ferments, pumped over daily. 7 days on skins before membrane pressing. Matured in a mix of second fill French and American oak puncheons and hogsheads for 22 months.

Alc: 14.5% **pH:** 3.45 **TA:** 6.58g/L **RS:** 2.3g/L



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