



## cradle of hills

McLAREN VALE

april twenty twelve news

~NEWS ~ EVENTS ~ VINTAGE 2012

~WINE STOCKS

*Welcome to the first cradle of hills newsletter.*

*Firstly, a big thanks to all our friends, old and new. We really value your feedback, especially the odd rave review!*

*~Our little winery continues to shine in 2012~*

### ~NEWS~

Stock selling quickly (only 50% remaining now)

*With the show circuit about to start, review-tastings and Members' Club allocations going out soon, we expect stocks to continue to move briskly.*

Be quick if you would like to secure some of our beautiful hand crafted wines in 2012. Available only through cradle of hills.



~EVENT~ get back to your roots in the Vale

**EMILY DAVIS TICKETS  
on sale NOW!**

cradle of hills proudly presents sultry chanteuse EMILY DAVIS straight from sell-out gigs at the Adelaide Fringe, with band THE HUSHES at the McLaren Vale Visitors Centre.

- **SUNDAY MAY 27 12-3.30**
- **TICKETS \$30 pp includes lunch+glass+cradle of hills wine** Children free  
~Bring a rug and lay back for a 3-set session with Emily Davis playing solo acoustics joined later by the combined musical talents of Cal Williams Jr (guitar), acclaimed jazz double bassist Kory Horwood and silver fingered banjo player Ben Timbers.  
~Enjoy a gourmet lunch, a glass+first pour of cradle of hills wine, for this 3 hour Sunday Session of sweaty solos, synergised improvisation and enough pluckin' and pickin' to get your toes a-tappin'! Don't miss this one! Children free
- Make a booking now, on **0438 564 281** or email your contact details to [info@cradle-of-hills.com.au](mailto:info@cradle-of-hills.com.au)

### ~cradle of hills VINTAGE 2012~ Hot off the (basket) PRESS!

Optimal rain and a warm dry October brought a lighter than average fruit set to our pocket of vines, leading to ideal conditions for harvest in late February and low yields of around 1.2 tonne per acre, a winemakers' dream!

Walking the vineyard, testing acid levels and maturity from January on, yielded the earmarking of many parcels with exceptional complexity (red and black fruit flavours) and balanced acid levels. Our Shiraz was harvested over 6 days (19- 24 Feb) the multiple picks providing different batches for complexity at blending. Our Cabernet sauvignon was picked on Feb 28. We noted clean picks



with small berry size and ideal acid levels. The fresh berries were then hand-sorted and destemmed, with many berries remaining intact for fermentation.

Our Grenache this year was selected from Motillo's Stump Hill vineyard and was harvested and crushed on March 14. Our Mourvedre came from neighbour, Pete Balnaves, again exceptional fruit, harvested and crushed on March 16.

Our little winery was then really rocking!

Now, at the end of March, we have basket-pressed our Shiraz and part of the Cabernet, which are simply stunning, with intense colour, nose and flavours after several weeks on skins. The Grenache and Mourvedre are now fully dry and will sit on skins for two weeks. Both are exhibiting very good colour, complex bouquets and intense varietal flavours!

## ~WINE STOCKS~

**cradle of hills** wines have been well-received by buyers seeking fine wines which have been truly handcrafted and cellar aged. Many buyers have responded by re-ordering, joining our Members' Club and passing our details onto friends. Thanks!

Note: Our wines are only available through us. Call 0438 564 281 or go to our website at [www.cradle-of-hills.com.au](http://www.cradle-of-hills.com.au)

Here is our current list of wine stocks, at April 2012.

- **2010 GMS Route du Bonheur: only 59 cases remaining.**

This wine, with its Grenache fragrance and delicacy, Mourvedre mouth feel and classic McLaren Vale Shiraz finish, is our most popular seller, by a whisker! This little drop is 'singing' and becoming a firm favourite with repeat buyers. (\$25)

94+points Philip White, Drinkster.

- **2009 Cabernet Shiraz: only 63 cases remaining.**

Tipped to be our stand-out wine for 2009 in the upcoming show circuit, this 100% estate grown, 3 year-old is plump and powerful with all the voluptuous elegance you've come to love from cradle of hills!

This winter we'll be having slow-cooked lamb by a fire with our cradle of hills 2009 Cabernet Shiraz. We hope you can try it too. (\$25)

92+++ points Philip White, Drinkster.

- **2009 Shiraz Mourvedre: only 32 cases remaining.**

This wine burst onto the stage in March having been pre-ordered before bottling by those who tracked us down for pre-release tastings. Drinking superbly now after 3 years aging, this wine has a winning combination of our own A Grade McLaren Vale Shiraz with a generous slurp of aged Mourvedre. We are big Mourvedre fans and have found this blend sharpens the natural strengths of Shiraz while having a 'twist' of difference. Unreviewed, but widely subscribed, this wine is disappearing fast! (\$25)

- **Introducing our ROW 23 Limited Release range:**

### **2010 ROW 23 Scarce Earth Shiraz**

**33 cases made.**

~NEWS~cradle of hills is pleased to announce the selection of our 2010 ROW 23 Shiraz by the McLaren Vale Scarce Earth panel !

McLaren Vale Scarce Earth project is a celebration of McLaren Vale's best Shiraz vineyards reaching their full expression through single block wines. The 2010 wines are carefully selected by a panel to ensure they reflect their sense of place and express their true fruit characters.

**Available NOW. ( \$55/3 bottle limit, per buyer)**

Limited Release wines are available to Mailing List members (limit 3 bottles per buyer) and to cradle 100 Members (guaranteed supply in May & Nov 2012).

Our Row 23 wines represent the Winemakers' Choice of best barrel(s) for each vintage.  
This is McLaren Vale Shiraz at its finest!  
Reviews are taking place now. Look out for announcements on May 1.

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Call 0438 564 281 to order direct, or  
go to [www.cradle-of-hills.com.au](http://www.cradle-of-hills.com.au)  
for more details.

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The poster features a central image of a vineyard in a golden frame. Text on the left reads: 'MCLAREN VALE SCARCE EARTH', '26TH APRIL AT 12PM-4PM', 'At 'Old 'tatachilla', corner California and Tatachilla Road McLaren Vale', 'Tickets available on the day or visit [www.mclarenvale.info](http://www.mclarenvale.info) to book', and 'Cradle of Hills'. Below the frame, it states: 'These limited release wines will be available for purchase ONLY in McLaren Vale during 1st May to 31st July at these participating wineries:'. At the bottom, there is a grid of logos for various wineries including ANDOVINE, BUSH BOTTLES, ENRIQUE CHALK, and others.