



**N E W S   R E L E A S E**

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**Wednesday 16 August 2006**

**FAMILY VALUES PREVAIL TO WIN JIMMY WATSON**

Shingleback, a small, McLaren Vale family wine company, is the maker of this year's best one-year-old red wine in Australia and winner of the most sought-after wine award in the nation, the 2006 Jimmy Watson Trophy.

In a wine world dominated by corporations, this year's Jimmy Watson Trophy from the annual Melbourne Wine Show is a triumph for a family that owns a vineyard, grows and also selects fine grapes from neighbours and friends for wine it makes under its own label and distributes in Australia, New Zealand, North America, Asia and the United Kingdom.

Shingleback's Jimmy Watson is no flash in the pan.

The family firm that started just 11 years ago also was confirmed this week as one of six wineries around the nation to be short-listed for the London-based International Wine and Spirit Competition's Australian Wine Producer of the Year.

This year's Jimmy Watson winner is a Shingleback 2005 D Block Reserve McLaren Vale Cabernet Sauvignon scheduled for public release in 2008. It won against 850 entries of all red wine varieties, including Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Pinot Noir.

The Shingleback 2005 D Block Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon is an elegant, densely flavoured wine... a true reserve wine, made only when the vintage provides grapes worthy of such special designation.

Shingleback was founded in 1995 by brothers Kym and John Davey with the help and continuing involvement of their mum and dad, Rhonda and Reg, and John's wife, Kate.

Kym is managing director, John is senior wine-maker and Kate is public relations manager.

"This is a win for the little guy," says John Davey.

"We are a small team and we handcraft from the vine to the bottle. Our wines are truly McLaren Vale.

“We produce modern, international-style wines with all the power, complexity and balance that you expect of a high-end Australian producer. We are committed to producing affordable, quality wines.”

Kym and John planted vines on a 120-hectare block bought by their grandfather almost 50 years ago in the Willunga Basin at the southern end of the McLaren Vale wine region.

The Davey brother’s achievements affirm their 1995 goal to produce high-quality wines from select blocks through hands-on vineyard management, superior fruit, innovative vine and foliage management and precise irrigation. About 70 percent of the vineyard is Shiraz, with the balance in Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Semillon.

“We achieve traditional results in the vineyard and winery using the best of modern technology and techniques,” says John.

“We’ve tweaked tradition with some very innovative trellising, precise computer-aided irrigation and state-of-the-art open fermentation techniques. We were the first company in the world to adopt the Zork, a taint-free bottle closure alternative.

“We’re also part of the Willunga Basin Water Company that provides one-third of all irrigation water in the Vales. It’s a fantastic recycled water initiative to save the local aquifer, reduce River Murray reliance and cut the outfall of treated water into Gulf St Vincent.”

Shingleback wines are distributed in Australia by Angove Wine Distributors.

***What’s with the lizards?***

Yes. There really are shingleback lizards at Shingleback. Besides giving their species name to the company and image to the label, both Speedy and Lumpy happily make public appearances with the Davey family.

**OTHER AWARDS**

**2002 D Block Reserve Shiraz**

**Best Shiraz, Best Red Wine, Best Wine in Show Trophies, 2004 Royal Hobart Wine Show**

A very high 93-point rating from world wine authority Robert Parker of the United States, who wrote in the October 2004 *Wine Advocate* that “*the spectacular 2002 Shiraz D Block Reserve boasts great density, fabulous concentration, tremendous purity, admirable length and notions of chocolate and blackberries in the aromas and flavours. It is a brilliant effort from Shingleback*”.

**2003 Shiraz**

90 points ‘best buy’  
*Wine & Spirits*, October 2005

**2003 Cabernet Sauvignon**

Blue Gold Medal (Top 100)  
2006 Sydney International Wine Competition

**2003 Shiraz**

4½ stars  
*Winestate Magazine*, October 2005

**2004 Grenache**

91 points  
*Wine & Spirits*, June 2006

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

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