



*The “moonraker” or “hope in heaven” as it was sometimes called, is the sail at the very top of the mast, designed to provide maximum speed when conditions were perfect. Not all ships carried the “moonraker” but for those who did, it meant the swiftest, smooth sailing en route to the land down under. In similar fashion, the Merlot vine produces its best results when everything is just right, delivering a beautifully smooth wine to enjoy now and for years to come.*

## VINTAGE 2018

The 2018 vintage in McLaren Vale is being touted as producing wine of excellent quality. While total tonnages were down for the season, compared to a wet and fertile 2017, the wine quality was set up by the wet growing season in 2016/2017 which led to healthy lush vines through the early part of this season.

Winter rainfall was average and soil moisture sensors recorded a wet soil profile at budburst. Spring rainfall totals were 30-60% below average. Fortunately, McLaren Vale growers have access to multiple water sources, which allows for timely irrigation.

Favourable ripening during February, with daytime temperatures in the high 20s and cool nights, let to fruit in great condition at picking.

ALCOHOL	14.5%
REGION	McLaren Vale
pH	3.33
TA	6.71

## TASTING NOTES

This is a wine full of subtle nuances from the careful use of French and American oak, balanced with plum and mulberry characters.

The full rounded palate lingers, finishing with soft silky tannins—an elegant and smooth wine.

**SHAW FAMILY VINTNERS**  
**MOONRAKER**  
**2018 MERLOT**

