



MEDIA RELEASE: JUNE 2012

A watershed vintage provides some excellent 2010 reds for BlackJack

- BlackJack 2010 Shiraz — \$35–40
- BlackJack 2010 Block 6 Shiraz — \$35–40
- BlackJack 2010 Cabernet Merlot — \$25–30

The 2010 vintage at BlackJack’s Harcourt vineyard, just south of Bendigo, was the usual mild-to-hot one, but with significantly more rain than in the previous couple of years.

January to March brought nearly 17cm of rain, compared with 5.5cm in the same months of 2008 and only 3cm in 2009. In fact you have to go back to 2000 for comparable falls.

“With hindsight, we probably should see 2010 as a sort of watershed, if I dare use that term, between a series of relatively dry years and the deluges of 2011 and 2012,” said Ian McKenzie who shares BlackJack’s ownership and winemaking duties with Ken Pollack.

“Not that the rain in 2010 did us any harm. It always seemed to come at the right time to refresh the vines and slow ripening a bit, yet not present us with any problems disease-wise.

“Indeed, the overall effect was undoubtedly beneficial. Our shiraz alcohols are down by a degree of so on 2009 without losing any flavour, and I feel that makes the wines gentler and more approachable.

“Even the cabernet merlot, which is up a tad in alcohol, seems more elegant than its predecessors from 2008 and 2009.”

The slow, even ripening certainly made for a relaxed, calm vintage, which started in early April and delivered a constant flow of ripe, perfectly conditioned fruit to the winery over the next couple of weeks.

“We’re very pleased with the results,” said Ian.

“They’re wines that are drinking exceptionally well on release, and we’re confident that they have sound cellaring potential for at least a decade.”

NOTE 1: For further information please contact Ian McKenzie on 0428 126 539 or visit the company’s website (www.blackjackwines.com.au).

NOTE 2: For stockist details, please contact Vintners on (03) 9872 5775.

NOTE 3: High-resolution images can be downloaded from WineMedia’s website (www.winemedia.com.au).

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