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2023 was a challenging year, but heck did it make for some great Shiraz. The cooler, wetter season really benefited the ripening of the Shiraz for this vintage, balancing the spicy peppery notes perfectly with brambly fruits. Classically made, there's an energy to the Very Special Shiraz this year that's not-so-normal, and the wine is all the more engaging because of it. Sourced again from the sandy part of the vineyard at the legendary Hickinbotham Vineyard, it's a mighty tribute that's still very Alpha Box and Dice in essence.  
~ Sam Berketa, Head Winemaker

<b>Name</b>	<b>Vintage</b>
Very Special	2023
<b>Variety</b>	<b>Region</b>
Shiraz	McLaren Vale

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#### **Nose**

Dark berries, wet asphalt and forest undergrowth.

#### **Palate**

Satin smooth, it seduces the palate with soft fruits and savoury spice, and entices the lips to take another sip.

#### **Pair**

Schnitzel with pepper sauce or stuffed cabbage rolls.

#### **Winemaking**

Harvested in the cool of morning. 100% destemmed and fermented as whole berries. Naturally fermented for 10 days on skins. Plunged twice daily. Gently pressed to large format cask for 6 months. No new oak. Full and spontaneous MLF.

#### **Vineyard**

Hickinbotham Vineyard, Clarendon. Unknown clone planted on own roots in the 90's. 260m-270m elevation, North-Westerly aspect. Clay loam with ironstone gravel over sandstone and siltstone. VSP spur pruned with foliage wires. Biodynamically managed.

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<b>Alcohol</b>	<b>Acidity</b>
14.5%	6g/L
<b>pH</b>	<b>Cellaring</b>
3.74	10 Years

Alpha Box & Dice would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we make our wines and respect their ongoing connection to land, culture and sea. We pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.

# Alpha Box & Dice