



## KAY BROTHERS PTY LTD

*Winemakers & Vignerons*

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### **2007 AMERY BLOCK 6 SHIRAZ (110th Vintage 1897-2007)**

In their 115<sup>th</sup> year a very small quantity of superb Shiraz grapes were handpicked on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2007 from the 4 acre Block 6 vineyard. Traditionally processed with open fermentation and basket pressing and matured in new American, French and Eastern European oak for over 2 and a half years. Bottled with Stelvin screw caps during September 2009. The early harvesting has resulted in a lower than normal alcohol content of 13.5% alc/vol.

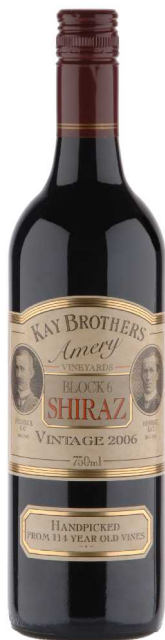
Colour: Bright ruby red.

Nose: Intense, black pepper, spices, cedar wood, underlying dried mulberry with the fruit somewhat muted at this stage.

Palate: Vinous, structured and balanced with a long lingering finish and abundant fine tannins. Full bodied and flavoursome that will respond well with a number of years in the cellar.

Colin Kay's comments – "This wine reminds me of the 1995 vintage at the same stage but it's not quite the ugly duckling that wine was initially. The 1995 now shows great development with good fruit still and appears to have a few years in it yet; it is an elegant and graceful wine."

*Reviewed in the Matthew Jukes/Tyson Stelzer 2008 edition of Taste Food & Wine – "There is one cellar door in Australia that gets more mentions than any other when we are out and about. Every time we hear about the enthusiasm, integrity and willingness to spend time and pour wine with complete strangers, the name that crops up is Kay Brothers. The two Colins, one front of house, one back of house, do an exceptional job of explaining their wines and their phenomenal setting to us all. Block 6 is one of the legendary vineyards of Australia and the fact that this wine can be brought for a two figure sum is, frankly, baffling. Every year it kicks forty or fifty other so-called "cult" wines into touch with its brooding, bitumen, liquorice and black olive flavours. It is always an honour to taste this wine and it will remain an immense pleasure for us all to revisit this estate every time we are in the Vale."*



### **THE HISTORY, VITICULTURE AND WINEMAKING OF BLOCK 6.**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of May 1891, Herbert and Frederick Kay ordered 30,000 Shiraz vine cuttings from Thomas Hardy. The cuttings were collected from Hardy's McLaren Vale "Tintara Vineyard" on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1891 and planted to nursery beds.

Tintara was planted in the 1850's by Dr A.C. Kelly who probably obtained the vine cuttings from his "Trinity Vineyard" at Morphett Vale. Dr Kelly drew his original planting material from the Busby collection from Europe and quite likely from other early S.A. viticulturalists about 1842.

The planting of Block 6 commenced on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July 1892 and when finished 5,890 Shiraz vines had been placed in the fertile soil of the Kay's Amery Vineyard. Of the original 12 acres only 4 remain today with approximately 2,000 vines – 8 acres were grubbed in 1983/84.

**SOILS:** The present 4 acres comprises a corner of red loam, some rather heavy clay in the middle of the block and gravelly alluvial soils on the lower side.

**VITICULTURE:** Rows run north south, vine spacing about 12 feet between rows with 8 feet between vines in row. Originally the vines were pruned as bush vines. In 1987 a modern two wire vertical trellis was installed and the vines trained on to this. A rod and spur pruning system is now used with the rods (canes) wrapped on to the top wire of the trellis.

Block 6 was dry land managed until 1987; from 1988 to 1991, some irrigation was applied. In spring, 1991 drip irrigation was installed and now (2003) irrigation is used to maintain vine health and maximise fruit quality.



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**ESTABLISHED 1890 – KAYS AMERY WINERY & VINEYARDS, KAYS ROAD, MCLAREN VALE**

*- Traditional Premium McLaren Vale Wines -*