ORIGIN

Italians love to talk, and they love to tell stories. Our Jester Cabernet Sauvignon tells its own tale, and starts conversations flowing. We follow the Italian technique of drying the Cabernet grapes on racks, and this makes up twenty per cent of this Jester wine. The vineyards for the Jester Cabernet Sauvignon are located at the southern end of McLaren Vale, close to the seaside town of Aldinga. The combination of cool sea breezes and gully winds provide ideal conditions for growing fruit of intensity and balance. The vines sit on heavy clay, which gives the wine powerful fruit flavours. Our Mitolo Jester Cabernet is best shared with family and friends, where its story can be told.

CREATION

2013 was a great vintage for McLaren Vale, producing deeply flavoured wines with poise and balance. We take a slightly different approach to creating our Jester Cabernet Sauvignon, and handle twenty per cent of the fruit using the ancient Italian technique of drying the grapes prior to fermentation, for approximately six weeks. The remaining grapes are fermented on skins for six to ten days, at cool temperatures to enhance pure berry fruit. Frank’s Italian roots inspired him to borrow this technique from the Valpolicella region of north eastern Italy, where it is used to make Amarone wine. Aside from producing a wine with a complete framework of tannin and intense fruit characteristics, it also makes for a great story to share at the table with our family and friends.

WHAT’S IN A NAME?

All of our Jester wines are named after Jesters of the 15th and 16th Century. For this wine, we chose a Jester who is much like the wine itself; unique and slightly eccentric. His name is Monarcho, and he was known as the most eccentric of all the Jesters in the court of Elizabeth 1. The only fool named by Shakespeare in any of his works and features in ‘Loves Labour Lost’, the Italian born and usually blue attired Monarcho was more intelligent and politically aware than his court persona. He starred as the fool for six years before retirement in 1575, and died thereafter in 1580. The eccentric Monarcho drew attention with his unique flair, much like our Amarone style Jester wine.