



## BlackJack 2009 Major's Line Shiraz

### VINEYARD & VINTAGE

In 1836 Major Thomas Mitchell set out from Bathurst NSW to embark on his now famous expedition to explore Southern Victoria, an expedition he was to call Australia Felix. His glowing reports of the rich and verdant land in Central Victoria brought many squatters and settlers to the area following the "Major's Line". This wine has been made by BlackJack Wines from grapes grown by David and Ruth Norris at Faraday on the foothills of Mount Alexander, the mountain on which Major Mitchell stood to view the surrounding countryside.

A warm-to-hot, dry summer produced another early, short, sharp vintage that started in late March and was finished by April 3. Vintage conditions were warm and very pleasant, in stark contrast to the 2008 "vintage from hell".

The earlier-than-usual start to vintage was at least partially due to a reduced crop load — down by 20-25 per cent on our average. All fruit harvested was in excellent condition, with absolutely no disease issues.

### WINEMAKING

The wine was fermented in traditional open fermenters, hand plunged, and aged in small American oak barriques for 24 months. Malolactic fermentation took place in barrel. No finings and only minimal filtration at bottling.

### TASTING

Colour: Blood plum.

Nose: Spice and pepper, sweet dark-berry aromas.

Palate: Full rich palate showing blackberry, plum and licorice flavours. Very similar to the award-winning 2008. Firm and persistent grape and oak tannins provide a lengthy finish.

Suggested cellaring: four-to-six years.

Release Date: October 2011

### ANALYSIS

Harvested: April 2009

100 per cent shiraz from David & Ruth Norris's vineyard at Faraday.

Bottled: October 2011

pH: 3.56

Acidity: 6.0g/L

Volatile acidity: 0.54g/L

Alcohol: 14.0 per cent

### Distributors:

Victoria: Vintners, phone 03 9872 5775 | NSW: Yarra Valley Wine Consultants, phone 03 9873 5567

Recommended retail price: \$25 per bottle

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## BlackJack Vineyards

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