



A word on screw-caps

Sarah & I started experimenting with screw caps in 2002, We've had such great success with this type of closure that we now bottle 9 out of our 11 wines, ranging in price from \$25 to \$90 per bottle, with screw caps. Even our 2006 Carnival of Love Shiraz (which received 99 points by Robert Parker in the *Wine Advocate*) is bottled with a screw cap. Currently the only exception is our Velvet Glove (\$185), which we initially intended to bottle with a glass stopper, but due to a hiccup with the glass company right before bottling we unfortunately ended up with cork. We do however think that we'll use a screw cap for Velvet Glove next year.

We initially made the switch to screw caps after finding that the Australian wine industry had been doing research on these closures, for premium and ultra-premium wines for something like 20 years, and that in the ongoing tastings the screw-capped wines were showing better and scoring higher than the same wines plugged with corks. We've found the same to be absolutely true with our own Mollydooker wines.

With cork closures we found that one to two bottles out of every 24 were corked and ended up getting poured down the sink. We also found that up to an additional three bottles had a flattened flavour profile related to the cork, even if TCA was not overtly apparent.

In addition to avoiding TCA, we've found a heap of other benefits to using screw caps. Most notably is the fact that our wines taste fresher and are more true to the flavours that we aim to achieve in the bottle. We also like the fact that we can offer better value to our customers, as they don't ever have to pour any corked wine down the sink. The last benefit of screw caps is that they make it much easier to do the Mollydooker Shake!

As winemakers you can imagine we had a real fear that people would prefer the mystique of pulling and sniffing the cork over the practicality of unscrewing the cap. But so far, we've been astonished and pleased at the dramatic shift in the perception of screw caps in the marketplace.