



Old Mains

WINE CO & VINEYARDS



The bare hands of old

Longhop Mount Lofty Ranges Shiraz 2011

Philip White - Indaily, May 18th 2012

\$16; 14% alcohol; screw cap; 93++ points

DOMINIC Torzi and Tim Freeland continue to flabbergast me with incredibly cheap hand-made wines of soul and distinction. How they managed to squeeze this out of the horrid 2011 wet, I'll never know. You could put it down to finicky hand-selection of the bunches in the first place, which Torzi blithely does when he mention "the bare hands of old" but there's other more spiritual wizardry at work here. Like some other locals (all much more expensive, but) they've managed to make a French wine, turning the botrytis strike to their advantage. This lovely thing has a sweet chocolate custard and junket turn about it, along with all those blueberries, mulberries and blackberries. Fatty malo-lactic acids at work, no doubt, with the extra glycerols that freak year provided. It smells like Paris Creek Blueberry Yoghurt sometimes, like the best of Bandol or Cornas at others. The flavours are intense yet mellow and supple; the feel is silky until the velvety finish puts an appetising nap on your tongue. It's slender, lithe stuff. If it had come from France, you'd be forgiven for expecting another zero on the spend. I've got succulent chilli-marinated pork ribs in the smoker, but my bottle's nearly gone. Damn.

