

## 2014 TYRRELL'S REDS

Vintage 2014 in the Hunter Valley produced red wines of the highest quality. Here are our thoughts on a few Tyrrell's shiraz. (Tasted "blind" by Lester Jesberg & Lex Howard)

**2014 Tyrrell's Single Vineyard Steven's Shiraz** Delightful violets and red fruits aromas. A superbly fine Hunter "burgundy" with supremely fine tannins. It can be enjoyed now but will live for decades. (\$30.00) ★★★★★

**2014 Tyrrell's Johnno's Shiraz** Here we have power and finesse like great pinot noir, together with very long flavour. It's medium-bodied, fine and will also be long-lived. (\$60.00) ★★★★★☆

**2014 Tyrrell's Vat 9 Shiraz** Intense and complex., with a touch of grilled meats. This wine has power and structure, and may turn out to become the longest-lived of them all. (\$60.00) ★★★★★☆

**2014 Tyrrell's Single Vineyard NVC Shiraz** There's earthy Hunter complexity here, together with perfumed red fruits. It's intense and long, with very fine tannins. (\$30.00) ★★★★★☆

**2014 Tyrrell's Single Vineyard Old Hut Shiraz** Fragrant raspberry aromas, but a little light on the nose. The palate is much better. Another "burgundy" that will build in bottle. (\$30.00) ★★★★★

**Note:** All of these wines are available only to Tyrrell's Private Bin Wine Club members. For details see <https://www.tyrrells.com.au/wine-clubs/private-bin>

## HILLTOPS WINE OF THE YEAR TASTING

**F**or the second year in a row, I've had the honour and pleasure of judging the Hilltops Wine of the Year competition. Judging was conducted "blind", and after a preliminary tasting I was left with three finalists. I selected the Grove Estate, not simply because it is a well made red, but because it had a certain something in terms of style and regionality that lifted it slightly above the other two wines.

**2014 Grove Estate The Cellar Block Shiraz Viognier** This is a delightfully perfumed wine showing an aromatic combination of red fruits, spices and black pepper. The palate is long and opulent, balanced by fine tannins. Cellar 5-7 years at least. (Current vintage on release is the 2013 at \$37.00) ★★★★★☆

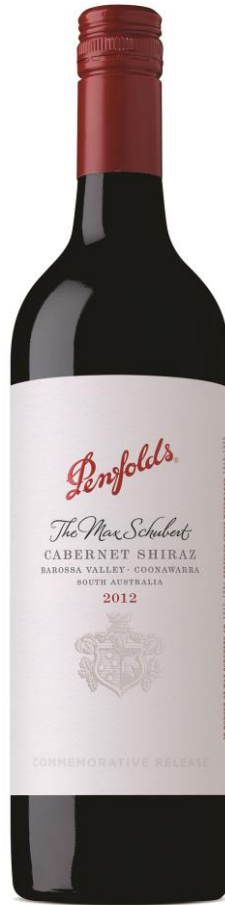
**2014 Ballinaclash Sub Tuum Shiraz** A vibrant, concentrated shiraz showing the now-familiar Hilltops red fruits and spice. The rich fruit works well with the fairly firm tannins. A bargain (\$15.00) ★★★★★  
<http://www.ballinaclash.com.au/all-products/2014-sub-tuum-shiraz.aspx>

**2013 Lock & Key Single Vineyard Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon** Aromas of raspberry and blackcurrant are enhanced by a hint of cedar. The palate carries plenty of flavour but is quite firm. It definitely needs time. (\$25.00) ★★★★★

Lester Jesberg

September 1, 2015

## 2012 PENFOLDS THE MAX SCHUBERT CABERNET SHIRAZ



We don't often make such a big noise about the release of a wine, but this one is worth a page of its own. It's a blend of 48% Coonawarra cabernet sauvignon, 13% Barossa cabernet sauvignon and 39% Barossa shiraz aged in new American oak hogsheads (300 litre barrels). In the pecking order of Penfolds reds, it's a masterpiece.

The opulent cassis of the cabernet merges beautifully with the blackberry of shiraz. Oak plays a role, as it does in most Penfolds red wines, but the fruit simply swallows it. The tannins have a rare fineness for a wine of such substance. Needless to say, it can be cellared for decades, especially as it's sealed with a screwcap.

Certainly it's expensive, but if you purchase it you'll have an Australian classic. Given the quality of this wine, I'm keenly looking forward to tasting the 2012 Grange. (\$450.00) ★★★★★  
<https://www.penfolds.com/our-wines/maxs>

Lester Jesberg