

2016 WINEWISE SMALL VIGNERON AWARDS Shiraz

Once again the shiraz category provided plenty of quality and food for thought. On the positive side were the stylistic variations presented to the judges. Take a look at the ★★★★★, ★★★★★☆ and ★★★★★ wines and you'll not only find a wide spread of regions, but differences in winemaking. The use of whole-bunch and stems in fermentations is becoming more common, but the traditional method of total destemming is still as valid as ever.

The keys to quality are freshness, intensity, appropriate tannin management, balance and absence of faults. We were disappointed to find that faults like oxidation, volatility, H₂S and brettanomyces were too frequently encountered.



2015 Montalto Pennon Hill Mornington Peninsula Shiraz

The vibrant colour grabs the attention, as does the spicy red fruits nose which carries a hint of dried herbs. Very fine tannins feature on a long medium-weight palate that delivers very impressive cool region varietal flavour. (\$32.00) ★★★★★

Montalto offers this wine at \$345.60 per dozen.

<https://montalto.com.au/product/2015-pennon-hill-shiraz-10-case-discount/>

2014 Craiglee Shiraz The dark cherry and pepper/spice characteristics that lifted Craiglee to an exalted position in Australian wine show clearly here. It's a classic medium-bodied Craiglee wine with long flavour and delightfully fine tannins. (\$50.00) ★★★★★

<http://www.craigleevineyard.com/>

2014 Pokolbin Estate Reserve Hunter Valley Shiraz The aromatics of this wine have evolved nicely since we last tasted it. Now we have quite floral characteristics which are a prelude to a very elegant medium-bodied palate. Classic Hunter "Burgundy". (\$60.00) ★★★★★

<https://www.pokolbinestate.com.au/shop/>

2014 De Iuliis Limited Release Hunter Valley Shiraz Here's another very classy 2014 Hunter shiraz. This one's generously flavoured and long, supported by very fine tannins and a touch of new oak. It will cellar very well. (\$80.00) ★★★★★

<http://www.dewine.com.au/>

2013 Juniper Estate Margaret River Shiraz The ripe red berry aromas are enhanced by a faint hint of spice and a whiff of oak. The elegant palate has excellent length, freshness and drive. (\$37.50) ★★★★★☆

<https://www.juniperestate.com.au/products>

2014 Wily Trout Vineyard Canberra District Shiraz A bright, spicy shiraz which shows black pepper and spice characteristics. The finish to the elegant, savoury palate is very persistent. (\$28.00) ★★★★★☆

<http://www.wilytrout.com.au/collections/all-wines>

2015 Gundog Estate Canberra District Shiraz The spicy red fruits aromas combine beautifully with the touch of classy oak. The palate has an excellent fine, savoury texture and considerable fruit drive on the finish. (\$40.00) ★★★★★
<http://www.gundogestate.com.au/wines>

2014 Tellurian Heathcote Tranter Shiraz There's plenty of fresh, spicy, floral plumminess to be enjoyed here. The tannins have an appealing savouriness about them. (\$39.00) ★★★★★
<https://www.tellurianwines.com.au/secure-order-form/>

2015 Mount Majura Vineyard Canberra District Shiraz The very attractive red fruits and spice nose is enhanced by some forest floor whole-bunch character. Intense varietal flavour takes centre stage on a long, savoury palate. (\$34.00) ★★★★★
<http://www.mountmajura.com.au/>

2015 Harcourt Valley Vineyards Barbara's Shiraz Bright purple-red colour. The aroma tends to satsuma plum with faint herbal overtones. Intense flavour runs the length of an impressive firm, balanced palate. From the Bendigo (Vic.) region. (\$25.00) ★★★★★
<https://www.wineboss.com.au/Order.aspx?ref=96y&wsrc=96y>

2015 Bellarine Estate Two Wives Shiraz There's a hint of Rhône-like reduction to the nose which adds complexity without detracting. The palate is medium-weight, long and supple. ★★★★★

2015 After Hours Oliver Margaret River Shiraz Spicy dark fruits and licorice are backed up by a liberal dash of new oak. The palate is quite firm at the moment, but the fruit intensity is impressive. Cellar. (\$25.00) ★★★★★
http://www.afterhourswine.com.au/main/page_buy_wine.html

2014 Naked Run BWC Barossa Valley Shiraz Here's a wine of substance. The dark berry aromas and flavours have a hint of chocolate, and the oak matches well with the generous fruit on a firm palate. Give it 5-6 years. (\$28.00) ★★★★★

2014 Mandoon Estate Old Vine Shiraz The ripe, "sweet" dark berry fruit of this Swan Valley red is very attractive and the well balanced palate is packed with varietal flavour. (\$29.50) ★★★★★
<http://shop.mandoonestate.com.au/reds>

2014 Kings of Kangaroo Ground Shiraz (\$30.00) ★★★★★

2014 Tintilla Estate Reserve Shiraz (\$40.00) ★★★★★

2014 Thomas Wines Elenay Shiraz (\$45.00) ★★★★★

2015 Juniper Crossing Shiraz (\$22.50) ★★★★★

2015 Paperboy Wine Co Shiraz (\$24.00) ★★★★★

2015 Bellevue Estate Shiraz (\$20.00) ★★★★★

2015 Montalto Estate Shiraz (\$50.00) ★★★★★

2015 Heathcote Winery Cravens Place Shiraz (\$22.00) ★★★★★

2014 Tallavera Grove Fenestella Hunter Valley Shiraz (\$60.00) ★★★★★

- 2014 Two Rivers Wines Vigneron's Reserve Shiraz (\$30.00) ★★★★★
- 2014 Sieber Rd Ernest Shiraz (\$25.00) ★★★★★
- 2014 Sanguine Estate Progeny Shiraz (\$24.95) ★★★★★
- 2015 Atze's Corner The Bachelor Shiraz (\$30.00) ★★★★★
- 2014 Mandoon Estate Frankland River Reserve Shiraz (\$52.00) ★★★★★
- 2014 Sons of Eden Romulus Barossa Valley Shiraz (\$70.00) ★★★★★
- 2014 Sanguine Estate Inception Shiraz (\$39.95) ★★★★★
- 2015 Eden Hall Springton Shiraz (\$25.00) ★★★★★☆
- 2015 Wily Trout Vineyard Shiraz (\$28.00) ★★★★★☆
- 2015 Sanguine Estate Progeny Shiraz (\$24.95) ★★★★★☆
- 2014 Paringa Estate Shiraz (\$50.00) ★★★★★☆
- 2014 Warner Glen Estate Shiraz (\$20.00) ★★★★★☆
- 2014 Paringa Estate The Paringa Shiraz (\$90.00) ★★★★★☆
- 2014 Mistletoe Hilltops Shiraz Viognier (\$25.00) ★★★★★☆
- 2014 Heathcote Winery Mail Coach Shiraz (\$35.00) ★★★★★☆
- 2013 Twisted River Shiraz Viognier (\$20.00) ★★★★★☆
- 2015 Bromley Shiraz (\$30.00) ★★★
- 2015 919 Wines Shiraz (\$40.00) ★★★
- 2015 Credaro Family Estate Kinship Shiraz (\$32.00) ★★★
- 2015 Tellurian Heathcote Pastiche Shiraz (\$27.00) ★★★
- 2015 Ridgeview Impressions Effin Hill Vineyard Shiraz (\$35.00) ★★★
- 2015 Lerida Estate Shiraz Viognier (\$75.00) ★★★
- 2015 Balgownie Estate Centre Block Shiraz (\$55.00) ★★★
- 2015 Tellurian Heathcote Redline Shiraz (\$22.00) ★★★
- 2015 Ross Hill Jack's Lot Shiraz (\$25.00) ★★★
- 2015 Cape Naturaliste Vineyard Shiraz (\$20.0) ★★★
- 2015 Thomas Wines The Dam Block Shiraz ★★★
- 2015 Rusty Bike The Dragster Shiraz (\$25.00) ★★★
- 2015 DogRidge The Pup Shiraz (\$18.00) ★★★
- 2015 Mandoon Estate Old Vine Shiraz (\$29.50) ★★★
- 2015 Sons of Eden Marschall Barossa Valley Shiraz (\$29.00) ★★★
- 2015 Smallwater Estate Shiraz (\$25.00) ★★★
- 2015 Balgownie Estate Railway Block Shiraz (\$55.00) ★★★
- 2015 Bit O Heaven Wines Think Outside The Circle Shiraz (\$25.00)
★★★
- 2014 Briar Ridge Dairy Hill Single Vineyard Shiraz (\$60.00) ★★★

- 2014 Arakoon Sellicks Beach Shiraz (\$20.00) ★★★
- 2014 Giggling Goose Single Vineyard Shiraz (\$19.95) ★★★
- 2014 Meerea Park Terracotta Shiraz (\$70.00) ★★★
- 2014 Brash Vineyard Single Vineyard Shiraz (\$35.00) ★★★
- 2014 Kies Family Wines Klauber Block Shiraz (\$30.00) ★★★
- 2014 Balgownie Estate Shiraz (\$45.00) ★★★
- 2014 Ballinaclash Sub Tuum Shiraz (\$25.00) ★★★
- 2014 Thomas Wines Sweetwater Shiraz (\$35.00) ★★★
- 2014 Sanguine Estate Dorsa Shiraz (\$59.95) ★★★
- 2014 Huntington Estate Special Reserve Shiraz (\$50.00) ★★★
- 2013 Trandari Shiraz (\$24.00) ★★★
- 2013 Stevens Reserve Shiraz (\$30.00) ★★★
- 2011 Ridgeview Impressions Shiraz (\$50.00) ★★★
- 2011 Mistletoe Reserve Shiraz (\$100.00) ★★★
- 2015 C&C Wines Shiraz (\$15.00) ★★★
- 2015 Single Vineyards Shiraz (\$25.00) ★★★
- 2015 Dogrock Degraves Road Shiraz (\$35.00) ★★★
- 2015 Catlin Syrah (\$45.00) ★★★
- 2015 Tintilla Estate Reserve Shiraz (\$40.00) ★★★
- 2015 Grove Estate The Cellar Block Shiraz Viognier (\$35.00) ★★★
- 2015 Thomas Wines Sweetwater Shiraz ★★★
- 2014 Sittella Swan Valley Coffee Rock Shiraz (\$55.00) ★★★
- 2014 Rosily Vineyard Shiraz (\$23.00) ★★★
- 2014 Mistletoe Reserve Shiraz (\$50.00) ★★★
- 2014 MoFro Wines Shiraz (\$15.00) ★★★
- 2014 Briar Ridge Stockhausen Signature Series Shiraz (\$35.00) ★★★
- 2014 Riposte The Cutlass Shiraz (\$25.00) ★★★
- 2014 Z Wines Section 3146 Barossa Valley Shiraz (\$35.00) ★★★
- 2015 Vinrock McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$25.00) ★★★☆
- 2015 The Vintner's Daughter Shiraz Viognier (\$40.00) ★★★☆
- 2015 Terra Felix Heathcote Shiraz (\$22.00) ★★★☆
- 2015 Four Winds Vineyard Shiraz (\$30.00) ★★★☆
- 2015 Mandoon Estate Frankland River Reserve Shiraz ★★★☆
- 2015 Thomas Wines Kiss Shiraz ★★★☆
- 2014 Ross Hill Pinnacle Series Shiraz (\$40.00) ★★★☆
- 2014 Flint's of Coonawarra Rostrevor Shiraz (\$22.00) ★★★☆

- 2014 Capital Wines Kyeema Reserve Shiraz Viognier (\$52.00) ★★★
- 2014 McIvor Estate Shiraz (\$35.00) ★★★
- 2014 Bimbadeen Estate HJM Shiraz (\$40.00) ★★★
- 2014 Hahndorf Hill Winery Shiraz (\$35.00) ★★★
- 2014 Bowen Estate Coonawarra Shiraz (\$34.00) ★★★
- 2014 Ernest Hill Shareholders Shiraz (\$30.00) ★★★
- 2014 Brangayne of Orange Shiraz (\$32.00) ★★★
- 2014 Wombat Crossing Vineyard Hermit's Block Shiraz (\$40.00) ★★★
- 2014 Balgownie Estate Centre Block Shiraz (\$55.00) ★★★
- 2014 Z Wines Rustica Barossa Valley Shiraz (\$15.00) ★★★
- 2014 Place In Time Greenock Shiraz (\$65.00) ★★★
- 2014 Tallavera Grove Est. Grown Hunter Valley Shiraz (\$30.00) ★★★
- 2013 Hugo Wines Reserve Shiraz (\$55.00) ★★★
- 2013 Craiglee Shiraz (\$50.00) ★★★
- 2013 Hugo Shiraz (\$25.00) ★★★
- 2013 Idavue Estate Heathcote Shiraz (\$35.00) ★★★
- 2011 Meerea Park Alexander Munro Shiraz (\$85.00) ★★★
- 2012 Sanguine Estate Kindred Shiraz (\$14.95) ★★★
- 2015 Windance Estate Shiraz (\$24.00) ★★★
- 2015 Sapling Yard Shiraz Viognier 28.00 6
- 2015 Even Keel Shiraz (\$45.00) ★★★
- 2015 Yarran B Series Shiraz (\$28.00) ★★★
- 2015 Gundog Estate Hilltops Shiraz No.2 (\$35.00) ★★★
- 2015 Robert Stein Reserve Shiraz (\$50.00) ★★★
- 2015 Grancari Estate Greta's Shiraz (\$18.00) ★★★
- 2015 Lark Hill Biodynamic Wines Shiraz Viognier 40.00 6
- 2015 Thomas Wines Elenay Shiraz ★★★
- 2015 DogRidge Shirtfront Shiraz (\$25.00) ★★★
- 2015 Robert Stein The Kinnear Shiraz (\$80.00) ★★★
- 2014 Sons of Eden Remus Eden Valley Shiraz (\$70.00) ★★★
- 2014 2 Mates Shiraz (\$35.00) ★★★
- 2014 Redman Last Row Shiraz (\$28.00) ★★★
- 2014 Seville Estate Old Vine Reserve Shiraz (\$70.00) ★★★
- 2014 Red Hill Estate Single Vineyard Shiraz (\$70.00) ★★★
- 2014 Jericho Adelaide Hills Syrah (\$35.00) ★★★
- 2014 Rusty Mutt Original Shiraz (\$28.00) ★★★

- 2014 Kies Family Wines Dedication Shiraz (\$50.00) ★★★
- 2013 Flint's of Coonawarra Rostrevor Shiraz (\$22.00) ★★★
- 2013 Peccavi Syrah (\$52.00) ★★★
- 2007 Mistletoe Grand Reserve Shiraz (\$125.00) ★★★
- 2015 Lerida Estate Shiraz (\$26.50) ★★
- 2015 Glenmaggie Wines Bazz Shiraz (\$35.00) ★★
- 2015 Sanguine Estate Inception Shiraz (\$39.95) ★★
- 2015 Stage Door Front & Centre Shiraz (\$25.00) ★★
- 2014 Genesis Vineyard Shiraz (\$25.00) ★★
- 2014 Sandhurst Ridge Shiraz (\$30.00) ★★
- 2014 Mistletoe Grand Reserve Shiraz (\$75.00) ★★
- 2014 Mount Avoca Vineyards Back Block Shiraz (\$45.00) ★★
- 2014 Meerea Park Alexander Munro Shiraz (\$110.00) ★★
- 2014 Mt Jagged Tangled Rope Single Vineyard Shiraz (\$25.00) ★★
- 2014 Mistletoe Home Vineyard Shiraz (\$40.00) ★★
- 2014 Molly Morgan Shiraz (\$40.00) ★★
- 2014 Ernest Hill William Henry Shiraz (\$60.00) ★★
- 2014 Kyneton Ridge Estate Heathcote Shiraz (\$45.00) ★★
- 2013 Nick Haselgrove Wines Blackbilly McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$23.00)
★★
- 2013 Redman Shiraz (\$23.00) ★★
- 2013 Terra Felix McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$32.00) ★★
- 2013 Yarrh Shiraz (\$28.00) ★★
- 2012 Stevens Family Shiraz ★★
- 2015 The Vintner's Daughter Shiraz (\$35.00) ★★
- 2015 Credaro Family Estate 1000 Crowns Shiraz (\$85.00) ★★
- 2014 Seville Estate Shiraz (\$36.00) ★★
- 2014 Topper's Mountain Wild Ferment Shiraz Viognier (\$30.00) ★★
- 2013 Vinrock Block 18 McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$45.00) ★★
- 2013 Brangayne of Orange Shiraz (\$32.00) ★★
- 2013 Willem Kurt Shiraz (\$32.00) ★★
- 2011 Meerea Park BLACK Shiraz (\$225.00) ★★
- 2011 Federation Hill Shiraz (\$25.00) ★★
- 2012 Nick Haselgrove Wines The Old Faithful McLaren Vale Top of the
Hill Shiraz (\$60.00) ★★
- 2012 Redman Shiraz (\$23.00) ★★

September 23, 2016

- 2015 Ulupna Shiraz Special Reserve (\$32.00) ★★
- 2014 Meerea Park Shiraz (\$17.00) ★★
- 2014 Mistletoe Hunter Shiraz (\$30.00) ★★
- 2014 Meerea Park BLACK Shiraz (\$225.00) ★★
- 2013 Wily Trout Vineyard Shiraz (\$28.00) ★★
- 2012 Nick Haselgrove Wines The Old Faithful McLaren Vale Cafe
Block Shiraz (\$60.00) ★★
- 2015 Quarry Hill Wines Shiraz (\$25.00) ★
- 2014 The Little Wine Co Little Gem (\$40.00) ★
- 2010 Thomas Vineyard Estate Shiraz (\$45.00) ★
- 2015 Ulupna Shiraz (\$27.00)

We're based in Canberra, and some could accuse us of a local bias, but for a small region like the Canberra district to have three wines in the ★★★★★ and better category is quite an achievement.

Once again we commend the quality and diversity of Australian shiraz. There's a style for everybody.

NSW WINES FOR ICC

The International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC Sydney) opens in December, 2016. We were delighted to learn that 80% of wines to be served at functions will come from New South Wales producers. It's estimated that around 200,000 bottles will be poured annually, so it's a significant commitment to the NSW wine industry.

When I chaired the NSW Wine Awards I made it clear in my addresses at presentation dinners that I was unimpressed with the way Sydney sommeliers ignored NSW wines. The announcement by ICC Sydney comes as the proverbial breath of fresh air to me.

Wine of excellence is produced in most Australian wine regions, and NSW well and truly holds its own with other states.

<http://www.iccsydney.com.au/>

Lester Jesberg

If you're not a Winewise subscriber, please join us (Only \$35 per year) <http://winewise.net.au/>