

SHIRAZ

Although McLaren Vale plays a large and significant part in this tasting, we travel elsewhere – even offshore – in search of quality. The top wine is a stunner. Wines of this quality don't come along very often.



2015 Hickinbotham Brooks Road McLaren Vale Shiraz Here's a shiraz that rises well above the ordinary. It's delightfully complex – even a little spicy – and the aromas reflect perfectly ripe fruit. The fine, tannins add a savoury touch and the palate satisfies completely. It's a brilliant wine now, but can be kept for as long as you like. (\$70.00)

★★★★★

http://au.unitedcellars.com/hickinbotham-clarendon-vineyard-brooks-road-shiraz-2014_2

2015 Saint-Joseph Les Pierres Seches (Yves Cuilleron) No doubt about it, this is text book northern Rhône. It's a tight, intense, plummy/spicy shiraz that's a little closed, but promises much. Allow a couple of years for the wine to unfold and the tannins to soften.

(\$49.50) ★★★★★☆

<https://www.thevinepress.com.au/product/specials/yves-cuilleron-saint-joseph-les-pierres-seches-syrah-2015-2>

2014 Huntington Estate Special Reserve Mudjee Shiraz The spicy red fruits aromas show a slight reductive note on first opening, but the wine breathes up well. The fine, firm, long palate carries intense fruit. It's not a huge wine, and has a finesse uncommon in Mudjee shiraz. (\$37.00)

★★★★☆

<http://huntingtonestate.com.au/>

2013 Shingleback D Block Reserve McLaren Vale Shiraz

Mulberries, dark chocolate and dried herbs show out on a multifaceted nose. The long palate, backed up by fine tannins, is elegant in McLaren Vale terms. A stylish red to cellar for 10-12 years. (\$55.00) ★★★★★

<http://www.shingleback.com.au/products/d-block/shingleback-d-block-reserve->

2016 Seppeltsfield W.R. Barossa Shiraz A satisfyingly supple and accessible shiraz that's packed full of dark berry flavour. There's even a hint of spice. Excellent drinking. (\$25.00) ★★★★★

2016 Red Knot Classified McLaren Vale Shiraz Fresh, fruity and regional, suggesting dark cherries with flecks of chocolate. Beautifully balanced and easy to drink. (\$19.00) ★★★★★

2015 Wirra Wirra RSW McLaren Vale Shiraz The bouquet is a real knockout – blackberry and rose petals, with a dash of new oak. That all flows through to a long, fine palate. However the acidity has been “tweaked” a little too much and tends to dominate the finish. (\$70.00)

★★★★★

2016 Vinvale Shiraz (by Shingleback) You'll get a lot of wine for \$15.00 if you purchase this one. The fresh dark berry aromas flow through to a supple palate with generous fruit. Very enjoyable drinking. (\$15.00 Exclusive to First Choice) ★★★★★

2015 Gartelmann Diedrich Orange Shiraz The bouquet is attractively floral with a touch of spice and a whiff of oak. The red and dark berry flavours are appealing, but there's a slight hollowness to the palate. (\$50.00) ★★★★★

2015 Chapel Hill The Vicar McLaren Vale Shiraz A substantial red from the Vale. Although there's not a lot of subtlety, there's certainly no shortage of flavour or tannin structure. It certainly needs a decade to be enjoyed at its best. (\$75.00) ★★★★★

2016 Mr. Riggs Piebald Adelaide Hills Syrah Scents of dark cherry and cocoa powder. Adequate fruit and fine tannins with an acid twist. (\$30.00) ★★★

2014 Robert Stein Mudjee Shiraz Slightly jammy nose. Ripe, plush fruit. Acid tends to jar on the finish. (\$25.00) ★★★

2016 Mr. Riggs The Gaffer McLaren Vale Shiraz Fresh but slightly light on the nose. Quite lean and acidic. (\$25.00) ★★★