

# SHIRAZ

**W**e've tasted a wide variety of Australian shiraz in recent times from nooks and crannies all over the country. Here's a selection that once again demonstrates how versatile shiraz is, and that it's unquestionably our No.1 red grape variety.



**2015 Bird On A Wire Yarra Valley Syrah** The opulence of this wine is the key feature. The dark berry characteristics support the whole bunch input perfectly, and the bright colour is testimony to the precise winemaking. A delicious, finely structured shiraz. (\$40.00) ★★★★★  
<https://birdonawirewines.com.au>

**2017 Brokenwood Indigo Vineyard Beechworth Shiraz** Dark cherries, blackberries and spices unite to present a very engaging bouquet. This is a long-flavoured, medium-bodied wine that also shows a hint of dried herb whole bunch character. First class. (\$66.00) ★★★★★  
<https://www.brokenwood.com.au/product/2017-Indigo-Vineyard-Shiraz>

**2017 McGuigan Personal Reserve Vanessa Vale Hunter Valley Shiraz** A very impressive wine which is concentrated and fresh – packed with dark berry flavour backed by fine tannins. This shiraz is full of life. (Not yet available) ★★★★★☆  
<https://www.mcguiganwines.com.au/>

**2014 Tempus Two Uno Hunter Valley Shiraz** Loads of Hunter flavour with a faintly leathery hint. “Sweet” fruit flows long on the palate and is balanced by fine tannins. Enjoyable now but will cellar. (Not yet available) ★★★★★☆  
<https://www.tempustwo.com.au/>

**2017 Keith Tulloch Wines The Kester Hunter Valley Shiraz** The nose is attractively rich and spicy, and the satisfying palate features very fine tannins. A beautifully made regional, medium-bodied red wine. (\$75.00) ★★★★★  
<https://keithtullochwine.com.au/wines/>

**2016 Huntington Estate Tim Stevens Signature Shiraz** This wine offers dense blackberry aromatics with mulberry overtones and a touch of oak. In typical Huntington Estate style the tannins are mouth-coating, framing an intense, long palate. Very much a cellaring style. (\$100.00) ★★★★★

**2017 Andrew Thomas Two of a Kind Shiraz** This blend of Hunter Valley (55%) and McLaren Vale (45%) material is bright light purple in colour and has a very appealing, almost floral nose. It's super-fresh and offers delicious drinking now. (\$25.00) ★★★★★  
<https://www.thomaswines.com.au/product/2017-Two-of-a-Kind-Shiraz>

**2018 Montrose Black Shiraz** Very fresh dark berry with floral notes. A pleasing early drinking style. (\$16.00) ★★★★★

**2017 Pitchfork (Hay Shed Hill) Margaret River Shiraz** A fresh, varietal, deliciously drinkable shiraz. (\$16.00) ★★★★★

**2016 Blue Pyrenees Estate Selection One Shiraz** Attractive blackberry and spice notes with hints of mint. Fairly firm, with good fruit weight and length. (Not yet released) ★★★★★

**2016 Huntington Estate Basket Dried Mudgee Shiraz** The dark berry, oak and prune aromas almost form a wall. If your thing is medium-bodied red, don't buy this one. It's a big firm number that showed well after four days' breathing, but it needs plenty of cellaring time. (\$75.00) ★★★★★

**2017 Mr Riggs The Gaffer McLaren Vale Shiraz** A fresh, well made, typical McLaren Vale shiraz. It drinks very well now. (\$18.00) ★★★★★

**2017 Yering Station Village Yarra Valley Shiraz** A vibrant, supple dark cherry style with fine tannins. It drinks very well. (\$24.00) ★★★★★

**2017 Waterton Hall Tamar Valley Shiraz** A lively, complex shiraz showing dark cherries with hints of cardamom, mint and nutmeg. The tannins are fine, and the palate needs just a little more weight to lift it to the top rank. (\$40.00) ★★★★★

**2017 d'Arenberg The Footbolt McLaren Vale Shiraz** This wine has plenty of dark berry flavour, but is already quite forward and ready to drink. (\$20.00) ★★★★★

**2017 Ross Hill Pinnacle Series Shiraz** Although it shows the violets and spice aromas of the Orange district, the palate is a little light. (\$45.00) ★★★★★

**2017 Fox Creek Red Baron McLaren Vale Shiraz** Attractive dark berry fruit and gentle tannins in an early-drinking style. (\$17.50) ★★★★★

**2017 Brokenwood Graveyard Hunter Valley Shiraz** Surprisingly reductive on the nose, showing an obvious sulphidic note. The fruit underneath is magnificent, but I wonder just how well this wine will age under screwcap. Only time will tell. (Not yet available) ★★★

**2017 Fox Creek McLaren Vale Shiraz** Very ripe dark berry aromas with a hint of prune. Full-flavoured, with slightly furry tannins. (\$23.00) ★★★

**2017 Sandalford Estate Wilyabrup Vineyard Reserve Margaret River Shiraz** Has dark berry varietal characteristics but is plain and slightly advanced. (Not yet released) ★★★

**2016 Di Giorgio Family Coonawarra Shiraz** There's depth of varietal flavour, but the plain charry oak does it a disservice. (\$26.00) ★★★

**2016 Waterton Hall Tamar Valley Shiraz** Very fresh, showing cherry and white pepper. Short on fruit but high on acid. (\$37.00) ★★★

**2017 Arakoon Sellicks Beach McLaren Vale Shiraz** The nose reflects very ripe fruit with a strong alcohol hit. The dark berry fruit is substantial, but the finish is hot. (\$22.00) ★★

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## RATING SCALE

|          |                    |            |             |
|----------|--------------------|------------|-------------|
| ★★★★★    | Outstanding        | 97-100 pts | Gold medal  |
| ★★★★☆    | Highly Recommended | 93-96      | Gold/silver |
| ★★★★     | Recommended        | 90-92      | Silver      |
| ★★★☆☆    | Recommended        | 87-89      | Bronze      |
| ★★★      | Agreeable          | 85-87      | Bronze      |
| ★★☆☆     | Agreeable          | 82-84      |             |
| ★★       | Acceptable         | 80-82      |             |
| ★☆☆      | Acceptable         | 77-79      |             |
| ★        | Barely Acceptable  | 74-76      |             |
| ☆        | Unacceptable       | 71-73      |             |
| No stars | Undrinkable        | <71        |             |

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