

# CHAMPIONSHIP CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**W**ith the surge of interest in medium-bodied shiraz, pinot noir and varieties like tempranillo and montepulciano, cabernet sauvignon has lost some market appeal. Such is the nature of fashion. The truth is that Australia has produced high quality cabernet sauvignon for decades, and continues to do so. Over 50% of the wines in this class were rated silver medal or better. Xanadu from Margaret River, a serious contender for the title of Australia's best cabernet producer, dominated.

**XANADU**  
MARGARET RIVER

**Medallion Winner 2017 Xanadu Reserve Margaret River**

**Cabernet Sauvignon** Here we have the essence of Margaret River cabernet sauvignon. At this early stage it's quite brooding, showing strong cassis characteristics enhanced by hints of leaf. The palate features "crunchy" fruit backed up by firm, fine tannins. This wine is destined for an illustrious future. (Not yet released) ★★★★★

**2017 Xanadu Stevens Road Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon**

Clear-cut varietal aromas of blackcurrant, leaf and mint show out on a vibrant nose. The palate is long and fine, with seamlessly integrated oak. Another wine that will grow over time. (Not yet released) ★★★★★

**Medallion Winner 2014 Xanadu Margaret River Cabernet**

**Sauvignon** A bright cabernet in all respects, with strong blackcurrant and dried herb varietal character. Very fine tannins and a caress of oak support the long palate. (\$39.00) ★★★★★

<https://www.rathdownecellars.com.au/products/online-store/>

**2016 Majella Coonawarra Cabernet** A fully ripe, vibrant cabernet with strong varietal aroma and a touch of toasty oak. The palate is rich and rewarding. Very good value. (\$30.00) ★★★★★

<https://www.nicks.com.au/2016-majella-coonawarra-cabernet-sauvignon>

**2016 Xanadu Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon** Quite a restrained cabernet at the point of being lean. However, the length of palate and very fine tannins are impressive. (\$49.95) ★★★★★

- 2016 Kimbolton The Rifleman Langhorne Creek Cabernet Sauvignon** Very impressive layers of fresh blackcurrant cabernet flavour. The oak is a little prominent, but this is a stylish wine. (\$55.00) ★★★★★
- 2016 Moppity Vineyards Reserve Hilltops Cabernet Sauvignon** Tightly structured and still a little closed, but offers excellent weight of varietal fruit backed up by firm, balanced tannins. (\$80.00) ★★★★★
- 2016 Ridgemill Estate Black Dog Cabernet Sauvignon** This Granite Belt (Qld.) cabernet is anything but depressing. While it may not be in the smooth, ultra-finessed cabernet style, it delivers layers of good, old fashioned varietal flavour backed up positive tannins. Needs cellaring. (\$50.00) ★★★★★
- 2015 Xanadu Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon** Fresh, lively and distinctly varietal. A medium-weight style with well integrated oak. (\$30.00) ★★★★★
- 2015 Xanadu Stevens Road Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon** Maybe a touch “skinnier” than the preceding wine, but there’s no doubting the length and balance. (Not available) ★★★★★
- 2017 Xanadu Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon** Strongly varietal, but a touch firm for its weight at this early stage. (\$30.00) ★★★★★
- 2017 Artwine The Good Life Clare Valley Cabernet Sauvignon** Plenty of cabernet sauvignon aroma and flavour to enjoy. The tannins are firm and need time to soften. (\$40.00) ★★★★★
- 2016 Xanadu Stevens Road Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon** An elegant, finely structured cabernet that offers more than adequate intensity. (Not available) ★★★★★
- 2016 Deep Woods Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon** Although strongly varietal, the herbal side of this wine is a little too prominent. Nevertheless, the palate delivers plenty of flavour. (Not yet available) ★★★★★
- 2016 Taltarni Old Vine Pyrenees Cabernet Sauvignon** This wine offers copious flavour backed up by firmness, but it all works pretty well. Throw in a bunch of dried herbs and you have a distinctive cabernet. (\$45.00) ★★★★★
- 2016 Angas & Bremer Langhorne Creek Cabernet Sauvignon** Rich, ripe and fresh, but a bit tough in the tannin department. (\$20.00) ★★★★★
- 2017 Red Knot McLaren Vale Cabernet Sauvignon** Fruity but forward and ready. (\$15.00) ★★★★★
- 2017 Ballinaclesh Thomas Hilltops Cabernet Sauvignon** Comparatively advanced. Tannins slightly green. (\$25.00) ★★★★★
- 2016 Tamburlaine Orange Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon** A ripe, solid cabernet. It will soften, given time. (\$44.00) ★★★★★

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**2016 Xanadu DJL Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon** Varietal but comparatively light. Needs more fruit weight. (\$20.00) ★★★

**2016 Grace Farm Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon** The tannins are quite drying, and the flavour intensity isn't quite up to the austerity. (\$30.00) ★★★

**2016 d'Arenberg The Coppermine Road McLaren Vale Cabernet Sauvignon** A solid wine which has fruit, but it struggles with the astringent tannins. (\$75.00) ★★★

**2016 Symphony Hill Wines Reserve Granite Belt Cabernet Sauvignon** The middle palate is fairly hollow and the finish is very dry. (\$95.00) ★★★

**2015 Kilikanoon Tregea Reserve Clare Valley Cabernet Sauvignon** Already showing tiredness. The finish is quite dry. (Not yet released) ★★★

**2015 Redman Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon** Minty/menthol nose. The tannins are on the green side. (\$27.00) ★★★

**2012 Saracen Estates Reserve Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon** Lacks generosity. Hard finish. (\$27.50) ★★★

**2016 Pepper Tree P.J.P. Super Premium Wrattenbully Cabernet Sauvignon** Firm, dry, oaky. (\$175.00) ★★★



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