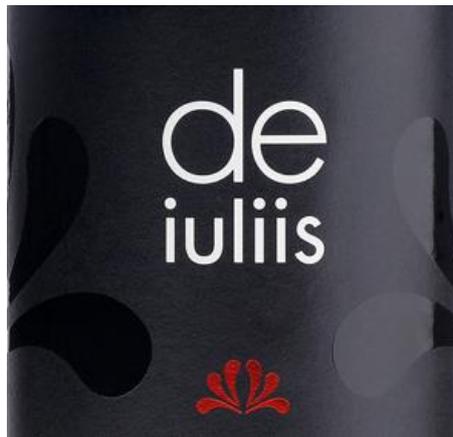


CHAMPIONSHIP 2017 SHIRAZ

There was a huge gap from the top to the bottom of the 2017 shiraz category. Concentrate on the ★★★★★ and upwards wines and you'll be delighted. The 2017 De Iuliis LDR Vineyard Shiraz which topped our 2017 Hunter Valley shiraz tasting, was again the star – and the Championship wines were judged by a different panel!



Medallion Winner 2017 De Iuliis LDR Vineyard Hunter Valley Shiraz The vibrancy of the varietal aroma and length of flavour are the key assets of this wine which has never been in barrel. The tannins are fine and supple, making this the ideal drinking proposition over the next 3-5 years. (No longer available) ★★★★★

2017 Shingleback Unedited McLaren Vale Shiraz A brilliant expression of McLaren Vale shiraz, showing pristine dark berry fruit enhanced by seamlessly integrated oak. This is a wine to wait for and cellar for at least ten years. (Not yet released – about \$80.00) ★★★★★

2017 Shingleback Aficionado McLaren Vale Shiraz While your Shingleback Unedited Shiraz is maturing you can drink this one. It's a satisfyingly mouthfilling shiraz with comparatively gentle tannins and impressive freshness. (Not yet released) ★★★★★☆

2017 De Iuliis Steven Vineyard Hunter Valley Shiraz Although it's more of a cellaring style than the LDR, it's every bit as bright and fresh. An intense, cutting-edge regional shiraz. (\$40.00) ★★★★★☆
<https://dewine.com.au/product/2017-steven-vineyard-shiraz/>

2017 Juniper Crossing Margaret River Shiraz If you want the wine offering the most flavour for your dollar, here it is. It offers ultra-fresh blackberry aroma and flavour and is beautifully balanced. (\$17.00 in any six bottle buy) ★★★★★☆
<https://www.summerhillwineshop.com.au/product/2017-juniper-crossing-shiraz-margaret-river/>

2017 Sons of Eden Marschall Barossa Valley Shiraz This one ticks all the Barossa boxes and is packed with classic blackberry shiraz varietal character. Above all, it's fresh and very well balanced, with cellaring potential. (\$22.00) ★★★★★

<https://www.nicks.com.au/2017-sons-of-eden-marschall-shiraz>

2017 The Gate McLaren Vale Shiraz Yet another success for Shingleback. It's another bright, lively wine with typical sumptuous regional fruit that reflects perfect ripeness. The tannins are fine and perfectly balanced. (Not yet released – about \$40.00) ★★★★★

2017 Sweetwater Single Estate Hunter Valley Shiraz Although this wine shows some classy oak, the fresh dark berry fruit is certainly up to the job. In fact, the overall balance is exemplary, and that and the intensity suggest cellaring will be rewarded. (\$65.00) ★★★★★

<https://hungerfordhill.com.au/product/2017-sweetwater-estate-shiraz/>

2017 Thomas Wines Dam Block Hunter Valley Shiraz A shiraz that is full of life - and berry flavours. The palate is long and intense, and carries the touch of oak with ease. (\$45.00) ★★★★★

<https://www.thomaswines.com.au/product/2017-Dam-Block-Shiraz>

2017 Dandelion Lioness of McLaren Vale Shiraz A whiff of herbal whole-bunch character adds complexity to the nose of this richly flavoured dark berry shiraz. The savoury tannins add to the value of this bargain-priced red. (\$20.00) ★★★★★

<https://www.winesquare.com.au/catalog/product/view/id/7739/s/2016-dandelion-lioness-of-mclaren-vale-mclaren-vale-1/>

2017 Thomas Wines Elenay Hunter Valley Shiraz Floral notes add to the dark cherry aromas and flavours. Well-managed oak contributes more complexity and the palate is long and fine. (\$55.00) ★★★★★

<https://www.thomaswines.com.au/product/2017-Elenay-Shiraz>

2017 Thomas Wines Kiss Hunter Valley Shiraz The Kiss shows the most oak of the Thomas wines, but there's also vibrant, intense plummy/dark berry fruit. Give it time to merge all components. (\$85.00) ★★★★★

<https://www.thomaswines.com.au/product/2017-Kiss-Shiraz>

2017 Clyde Park Estate Bannockburn Shiraz A full-on expression of cool climate shiraz, but the finish is just a touch hard and grippy. (\$30.00) ★★★★★

<https://www.winestar.com.au/clyde-park-shiraz-2017>

2017 Windance Margaret River Shiraz Another noteworthy wine from this very consistent producer. The dark berry fruit is vibrant and satisfying, but the tannins need time to soften. (\$25.00) ★★★★★

<https://www.windance.com.au/products/2012-shiraz?variant=11178883521>

2017 Dogrock Shiraz This is a vibrant, spicy wine, but the oak shows charry characteristics which are a little too obvious. (\$35.00) ★★★★★

2017 Montrose Black Mudgee Shiraz A rich, ripe shiraz in which the finish is taken over by firm tannins. ★★★★★

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2017 Dandelion Lion's Tooth of McLaren Vale Shiraz Riesling Has good fruit, but the tannins are on the hard, greenish side. ★★★☆

2017 Shingleback Davey Estate Shiraz This one didn't sing for the panel like the other Shinglebacks. The tannins tended to overwhelm the fruit. Time will solve some of the balance issue, but probably not all of it. ★★★☆

2017 Tamburlaine Orange Reserve Shiraz Has decent fruit weight, but is somewhat one-dimensional. ★★★☆

2017 Ad Hoc Middle Of Everywhere Shiraz A little plain. The fruit only just copes with the oak. ★★★

2017 The Yard Riversdale Shiraz Has good fruit, but the tannins have a hard edge. ★★★

2017 Moppity Vineyards Estate Hilltops Shiraz Fresh, but doesn't have the required concentration. ★★★

2017 Tyrrell's Hunter Valley Shiraz The nose is attractively fragrant, but the palate lacks weight. ★★★

2017 Tamburlaine Hunter Valley Reserve Shiraz Shows red berry characteristics but needs more fruit drive. ★★★

2017 Hungerford Hill Epic Hunter Valley Shiraz This wine certainly doesn't lack fruit, but the level of oak was questioned by the panel. ★★★

2017 Sanguine Estate Progeny Shiraz A richly flavoured shiraz that shows a little development. ★★★

2017 Montalto Pennon Hill Shiraz Quite spicy, but thins out on the finish. ★★★☆

2017 Duke's Magpie Hill Reserve Shiraz Doesn't have the fruit intensity to match the firm structure. ★★★☆

2017 Mount Benson Estate Syrah Lacks freshness and has a hard finish. ★★

2017 Clonakilla Hilltops Shiraz Has decidedly green overtones. ★★

2017 Charlotte Dalton Love Me Love You Shiraz Too green and stemmy. ★★

2017 Yarrowood Tall Tales Shiraz Very reductive. ★★



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