

CHAMPIONSHIP OTHER DRY RED VARIETIES

As always, this was a value for money class offering not only high quality, but diversity of style. Eight different grape varieties featured in the gold medal scores, and that result speaks for itself. Get out of the mainstream rut and try some of these.



2017 Shingleback Kitchen Garden McLaren Vale Mataro This is a sophisticated mataro, devoid of the rusticity this variety sometimes brings with it. The attractive aromas tend towards mulberry, while the palate is rich and long, balanced by savoury tannins. (About \$25.00 – not yet released) ★★★★★

2017 McWilliam's Alternis Gundagai Tempranillo An impressive tempranillo in which the dark berry and licorice aromas are enhanced by notes of dried herbs. The fine, firm tannins are typical of the variety. (\$25.00) ★★★★★
<https://www.wineselectors.com.au/product/mcwilliam-s-mcw-alternis-tempranillo-2017/mcwil30717>

2016 Yalumba Carriage Block Barossa Grenache The aromatics are delicate, akin to rose petal, and the palate is vibrant, silky and fine. There's an almost pinot noir-like character to this excellent grenache. (\$50.00) ★★★★★
<https://www.yalumba.com/portfolio/wines/carriage-block-grenache>

2017 Tamburlaine Orange Reserve Malbec A very seductive varietal wine showing classic blueberry/red berry characteristics. The palate is firm, but has considerable fruit intensity to carry the astringency. (\$44.00) ★★★★★
<https://tamburlaine.com.au/collections/all-wines/products/2018-reserve-orange-malbec>

2016 Rowlee R Series Orange Nebbiolo Nicely perfumed, with prominent potpourri aromatics. The persistent varietal flavour is backed up by fine, balanced tannins. (Not available) ★★★★★

2017 Mr Hyde The Full Monty Clare Montepulciano A wine featuring very dense dark fruits. The palate is firm but not harsh and the richness of flavour persists to the very end. (\$25.00) ★★★★★
<https://mrhydewines.com.au/products/case-of-12-bottles-the-full-monty-2016-montepulciano>

2015 d'Arenberg The Derelict Vineyard McLaren Vale Grenache The vibrant raspberry aroma is classically varietal, and the palate, although fairly firm, offers rewarding grenache flavour. Fresh acidity lifts the finish. (\$29.00) ★★★★★
<https://www.darenberg.com.au/the-derelict-vineyard-2017>

2016 Hay Shed Hill Margaret River Malbec Alluring dark and blue fruits show out on nose and palate. A rich, firm, balanced and very pleasing dry red with a touch of oak. (\$30.00) ★★★★★
<https://www.wineselectors.com.au/product/hay-shed-hill-malbec-2016/haysh30716>

2018 Ricca Terra Farms Nero d'Avola (Riverland) Purple colour. It's packed with very fresh powerful, primary dark berry flavour which carries a hint of mint. Excellent young drinking. (No longer available) ★★★★★

2016 Reilly's Wines Dry Land Clare Tempranillo Very fresh and rich, offering dark plum and licorice aromas. Quite complex – with a great savoury palate. (\$24.00) ★★★★★
<https://www.nicks.com.au/2016-reillys-dry-land-tempranillo>

2016 Symphony Hill Wines Reserve Heathcote Lagrein Dark berries and plums show out in a savoury but supple wine of excellent fruit weight. It's enhanced by well-judged oak. (\$95.00) ★★★★★
<https://symphonyhill.com.au/shop/2013-reserve-lagrein/>

2015 The Hundred Single Vineyard Blewitt Springs Grenache A fragrant red fruits style with floral nuances. It reflects perfect fruit ripeness. (\$35.00) ★★★★★
<https://www.willunga100.com/shopwillunga/2015-the-hundred-grenache-blewitt-springs>

2017 Next Crop Wines Langhorne Creek Lagrein Dense dark berry fruit supported by some oak. The tannins are firm but not too assertive. ★★★★★

2017 De Iuliis Special Release Hunter Valley Sangiovese The cherry/spice nose is very bright, as is the palate which is quite savoury but shows a little too much acid. ★★★★★

2017 3drops Mount Barker Merlot Attractive raspberry and leaf aromas and flavours. The palate is fine, firm and long. ★★★★★

2017 Bleasdale Generations Langhorne Creek Malbec Classic rich varietal nose with an attractive whiff of blueberry. An opulent, firm, balanced wine. ★★★★★

2016 Fighting Gully Road Beechworth Sangiovese Light colour. Comparatively forward but has persistent medium-bodied fruit and savoury tannins. ★★★★★

2016 Bleasdale Generations Langhorne Creek Malbec Powerful and nicely perfumed. Balanced, rich and firm. ★★★★★

2017 Smallwater Estate Geographe Zinfandel This wine offers rich raspberry and plum aromas and good fruit expression. The tannins are fine and persistent. ★★★★★

2017 Tamburlaine Single Vineyard Orange Cabernet Franc The fresh plum and red berry aromas have considerable appeal. The tannins are firm, but there's enough flavour intensity. ★★★★★

2017 St John's Road The Resilient Barossa Grenache The flavour is ripe, verging on jammy. A wine of substance with a comparatively firm structure. ★★★★★

2017 Tamburlaine Orange Reserve Merlot A rich, plummy merlot with tannins to match. It needs a little time to soften. ★★★★★

2016 Atze's Corner The Giant Barossa Durif An intense, solid dark berry style with slightly charry overtones. Big but fresh. ★★★★★

2017 Mayford Porepunkah Tempranillo This wine shows opulent dark berry aromas with herbal overtones. The palate is firm, with a long finish. This wine was strongly supported by half the panel. ★★★★★

2017 Merindoc Vintners Willoughby Bridge Heathcote Sangiovese Decidedly minty red fruits aromas with hints of eucalypt. Good fruit weight features on a firm palate. ★★★★★

2015 Next Crop Wines McLaren Vale Sangiovese This wine shows good cherry varietal character together with tobacco leaf and mint. It's rich, firm, savoury, and robust. ★★★★★

2017 Z Wines Rustica Barossa Grenache Slightly forward with a leathery overtone. The finish is quite firm. ★★★★★

2017 Broke Estate Hunter Valley Barbera Shows ripe varietal character with a slightly earthy overtone. The oak is prominent. ★★★★★

2016 Artwine Leave Your Hat On Clare Valley Montepulciano The nose is of rich, ripe plums and berries with a herbal note. The tannins are faintly green. ★★★

2017 Terindah Estate Single Vineyard Bellarine Peninsula Zinfandel The raspberry varietal overtones are obvious, but there's an element of greenness to this wine. ★★★

2016 Symphony Hill Wines Reserve Nebbiolo Shows rose petal varietal characteristics, but the tannins tend to dominate. ★★★

2017 Purple Hands Barossa Valley Aglianico Light colour. Quite earthy and forward. Adequate fruit. Balanced savoury tannins. ★★★

2017 Dogrock Pyrenees Grenache This result was a shock. Variation like this shouldn't happen with screwcap, but this wasn't the vibrant wine we tasted in the 2018 Small Vignerons Awards. ★★★



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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