

## Yalumba Grenache

**M**any Australian wines from the Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale, labelled Grenache, fail to display true varietal character. It's common to add the full legal 15% of shiraz (or other grape variety) to impart more colour, structure and richness, and that detracts from the true nature of grenache. More commonly, grenache is part of a triumvirate with shiraz and mourvèdre (mataro) where it is prized for its perfumed aromatics, but is usually dominated on the palate by the heavier varieties.

Yalumba is a company that prefers to allow grenache to show its personality, and the ownership of some treasured Barossa old-vine blocks allows them to do so. Three recent releases demonstrate how grenache can be allowed to speak eloquently for itself.

**2017 Yalumba Vine Vale Barossa Valley Grenache** Yalumba has a number of blocks in the Vine Vale vineyard ranging from 40-90 years of age. This wine is a result of judicious blending across those blocks. It's a perfumed raspberry-cherry grenache with a seductive spiciness. Although light to medium-bodied, it is a wine of impressive length and it's utterly delicious. (\$40.00) ★★★★★

<https://www.yalumba.com/portfolio/wines/vine-vale-grenache>

**2016 Yalumba Carriage Block Barossa Grenache** The Carriage Block was planted in 1954 and is home to 796 dry-grown grenache vines which give us Carriage Block Grenache. This one is very much a dark cherry style, and is more substantial than the Vine Vale Grenache, but is still just medium-bodied. The fine tannins impart a decidedly savoury mouthfeel. (\$50.00) ★★★★★

<https://www.yalumba.com/portfolio/wines/carriage-block-grenache>

**2015 Yalumba The Tri-Centenary Barossa Grenache** There are 820 dry-grown vines in a block of the Vine Vale vineyard that were planted in 1889. Their mission in life is to produce the Yalumba The Tri-Centenary Grenache. The 2015 vintage is the essence of elegant grenache – raspberry scented and silky. The fine, soft tannins are a key feature of the long, lingering palate. (\$65.00) ★★★★★

<https://www.yalumba.com/portfolio/wines/tri-centenary-grenache>

Add to these the **2018 Yalumba Block 2 Barossa Valley Grenache Rosé** which is also tailor-made from Vine Vale material. It's a dry rosé of the palest pink, with delicate berry aromas and flavours, with subtly complex fermentation notes and the finest of tannins. (\$40.00) ★★★★★

If you're thinking of serving a pinot noir, give some thought to real, unadulterated grenache. Handled properly, it produces exciting, eminently drinkable, lighter-bodied dry reds.

Lester Jesberg

If you're not a Winewise subscriber, please join us (Only \$35 per year) <http://winewise.net.au/>