

New Releases from S.C. Pannell & Andrew Thomas

Stephen Pannell and Andrew Thomas have risen to prominent positions in the Australian wine industry through the high quality wines they produce. Stephen works with a wide range of grape varieties grown in both McLaren Vale and the Adelaide Hills, but here we look at two gems made from 100% grenache. “Thommo” sticks to the classic Hunter varieties semillon and shiraz. The latter takes centre stage in this report.

S.C. Pannell



2018 S.C. Pannell Smart (Clarendon) Grenache When a winemaker has the honour of working with great material, he or she must resist the temptation to do too much with it. Here the grenache, harvested at the perfect time, is allowed to fully express itself in the purest form. The result is an elegant, long-flavoured wine with sublime aromas of violets and raspberries. Supremely fine tannins contribute to perfect balance. (\$60.00) ★★★★★

2018 S.C. Pannell Old McDonald McLaren Vale Grenache Rose petals and mixed berries feature on the very appealing nose, and the palate is supple, “juicy” and delicious. It has slightly more body than the Smart Grenache, but the Smart receives my vote because of its sheer finesse. (\$60.00) ★★★★★☆

<https://pannell.com.au/>

Andrew Thomas

2018 Andrew Thomas The Cote Hunter Valley Shiraz The perfumed nose offers a suggestion of rose petal, and a touch of oak, leading to a plush palate with very fine tannins. This wine is very enjoyable now, but will cellar for at least ten years. (\$35.00) ★★★★★

2018 Andrew Thomas Synergy Vineyard Selection Hunter Valley Shiraz Classic Hunter, showing full-on dark berries with a slight leathery overtone. The tannins are comparatively soft. Good drinking. (\$25.00) ★★★★★

2018 Andrew Thomas Belford Hunter Valley Shiraz There's plenty of blackberry aroma in evidence, enhanced by hints of tilled earth regional character. The palate is long and beautifully balanced, with a firm structure which encourages cellaring. (\$45.00 – available only to Thomas Wine Club members) ★★★★★



2018 Andrew Thomas Elenay Barrel Selection Hunter Valley Shiraz The vibrant, intense red and dark berry aromas carry hints of violets and a lick of oak. The palate has knockout appeal by way of the great power of fruit, length and balanced tannins. (\$55.00) ★★★★★
Newer barrels from the Kiss (66%), Belford (14%), Cote (12%) and Dam Block (8%) parcels

2018 Andrew Thomas Sweetwater Individual Vineyard Hunter Valley Shiraz An almost dense blackberry style showing some oak. It's a rich, bold red with slightly furry tannins. It needs a few years. (\$35.00) ★★★★★

2018 Andrew Thomas The Dam Block Individual Vineyard Hunter Valley Shiraz Another substantial red from Thommo. The nose makes a significant dark berry impact, which carries through to a deep, impressive palate with a tannin structure that makes it a guaranteed cellaring style. (\$45.00) ★★★★★

2018 Andrew Thomas Kiss Hunter Valley Limited Release Shiraz The striking colour shows flashes of purple, and the nose and palate are packed with vibrant dark berry fruit which carries the new oak comfortably. The tannins are fine and persist on a prodigiously long finish. Cellar as long as you like. (\$85.00) ★★★★★

<https://www.thomaswines.com.au/Wines---Shop/Red>

All of the wines in this feature reflect the talents of two of Australia's finest winemakers.

Lester Jesberg

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