

Championship Other Red Blends

Other Red Blends is always a fascinating and enjoyable category to judge. The wines test the abilities of winemakers to combine a wide range of grape varieties to craft an equally wide range of styles. The class always pits early-drinking reds against those designed for cellaring, and that always creates much discussion among the judges. This year's winner is one for the cellar.



2018 Yarra Yering Dry Red Wine No. 3 (touriga nacional, tinta cão, tinta roriz, tinta amarela, alvarelhão, sousão) This unique blend of Iberian varieties is stunning. Floral (especially rose petal) aromas combine beautifully with those of dried herbs and star anise. The long palate delivers considerable intensity of fruit supported by ultra-fine tannins. (\$105.00) ★★★★★

<https://www.yarrrayering.com/product/2018-dry-red-wine-no-3/>

2018 Tamburlaine Wine Lovers Orange Region Grenache Shiraz Malbec This is a rich, ripe, red berry/dark cherry style that is crammed with flavour. The powerful palate is balanced by fairly firm tannins which will soften beautifully over the next couple of years. (\$24.00)

★★★★☆

<https://tamburlaine.com.au/products/2018-wine-lovers-grenache-shiraz-malbec>

2018 Tellurian Heathcote Grenache Shiraz Mourvèdre An intense, vibrant wine in which raspberry and blackberry aromas are enhanced by those of grilled meats. A wine of finesse and balance. (\$28.00) ★★★★★

<https://www.tellurianwines.com.au/wine/gsm-2018>

2018 Shingleback Local Heroes McLaren Vale Shiraz Grenache

This is the one to drink now. It's a delightfully bright wine which offers fragrant red berry and spice characteristics. Delicious. (\$25.00)

★★★★☆

<https://www.shingleback.com.au/wine/local-heroes-shiraz-grenache-2018>

2018 Big Easy Radio Funtime Fountain (sangiovese & montepulciano)

A powerful perfumed mulberry style that will provide very enjoyable full-flavoured drinking over the next couple of years. It

hits all the right notes. (\$30.00) ★★★★★

<https://www.bigeasyradio.com/products/funtime-fountain>

2019 Ricca Terra Vineyards Bullets Before Cannonballs

(tempranillo, lagrein, aglianico, nero d'avola, durif) This label keeps delivering the goods. The floral/dark cherry aromas are very appealing,

and the opulent, delicious palate is a winner. (\$20.95) ★★★★★

<https://www.wineseek.com.au/products/7396-ricca-terra-bullets-before-cannonballs-2019/>

2017 Hay Shed Hill Margaret River Shiraz Tempranillo

A rich, ripe style that shows a little bit of oak, but the fruit carries it well. The

generous palate delivers plenty of satisfying flavour. (\$19.00) ★★★★★

<https://www.mywineguy.com.au/products/2017-hay-shed-hill-vineyard-series-shiraz-tempranillo>

2018 Hungerford Hill Hilltops Tempranillo Graciano

Rich dark fruits show on both nose and palate but the oak is a little too prominent.

★★★★

2018 Gilbert Rouge (shiraz, sangiovese, petit Verdot, barbera, pinot noir, tempranillo)

Fresh, ripe, dark berries abound on an appealing nose and fairly firm palate. ★★★★★

2018 Soumah The Butcher Shiraz Cabernet Nebbiolo

A fresh, ripe mulberry-scented style that is a little too oaky. ★★★★★

2018 Moppity Vineyards Hilltops Grenache Shiraz

Light bright colour. The perfumed red berry nose is attractive, but the palate needs just a little more oomph. ★★★★★

2018 Longview Vineyard Vista Shiraz Barbera

The floral nose is enticing, but there's a slight jar between fruit and acid. ★★★★★

2018 The Pawn Wine Co El Desperado (tempranillo, sangiovese, shiraz, montepulciano)

The fresh dark cherry fruit has appeal. One to drink over the next twelve months or so. ★★★★★

2017 Massena Stonegarden Grenache Mataro Shiraz Fragrant but slightly light. ★★★☆

2019 Longview Vineyard Fresco (Nebbiolo, pinot nero, sangiovese, barbera) Bright but pale colour. Light, fresh, floral. A bit lean. ★★★☆

2018 Berg Herring Saperavi Barbera A big, ripe blackberry style with a slightly volatile lift. ★★★☆

2018 Gargoyle Tempranillo Touriga Dull, with a hard, dry finish.★★

We were delighted by the number of beautifully made wines, and the Yarra Yering ranks with Australia's best. However, this class is the perfect place to look for affordable short-term reds of the highest order, and there several from which to choose.

Our 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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