

# Other Red Varieties & Blends

**F**urther to our recent reports on other red varieties and blends, here are our reviews of twenty more wines from those categories. The overall standard is encouraging, but only two wines really shone out. Nevertheless, there's plenty of good-value drinking here.

**2018 Chapel Hill McLaren Vale Bush Vine Grenache** Bright light purple/red colour. The fragrant nose is particularly appealing, and the palate is long, varietal and delightfully silky. Exemplary grenache.

(\$25.95) ★★★★★☆

<https://www.optionswines.com.au/CHGR62018/CHAPEL-HILL-BUSH-VINE-GRENACHE-2018-X-6/pd.php>

**2018 S.C. Pannell Oliver's Road McLaren Vale Aglianico** The mulberry aromas are considerably enhanced by those of rose petal, and the fine, powdery tannins are a perfect match for the vibrant fruit.

(\$40.00) ★★★★★☆

<https://pannell.com.au/product/2018-olivers-road-aglianico/>

**2018 Mr Riggs The Magnet McLaren Vale Grenache** A fresh, elegant expression of the variety offering perfumed raspberry characteristics backed up by fine, drying tannins. (\$30.00) ★★★★★

**2018 Hickinbotham The Nest McLaren Vale Cabernet Franc** Dark cherry and blackcurrant fruit is enhanced by a bouquet of dried herbs and challenged by toasty oak. The intense flavour matches well with the fine, savoury tannins, but the oak is prominent at the moment. (\$75.00)

★★★★★

**2018 West Cape Howe Frankland River Malbec** The mulberry/blueberry characteristics are clearly varietal, and the fruitiness backed up by soft, fine tannins, make drinking a pleasure. (\$22.00)

★★★★★

**2018 West Cape Howe Frankland River Tempranillo** The aromas reflect fresh mixed berries and the palate delivers generous flavour balanced by fine, firm tannins. Give it another couple of years to show its best. (\$22.00) ★★★★★

**2019 Bleasdale Langhorne Creek Grenache** A generously flavoured, fruity red berry style with soft tannins and fresh acidity. It's drinking well now. (\$30.00) ★★★★★

**2018 Mr Riggs Montepulciano d'Adelaide** The vibrant multi-berry nose is very attractive, and the balanced palate delivers plenty of flavour supported by acidity and savoury tannins. (\$30.00) ★★★★★

**2018 Mr Riggs Yacca Paddock Adelaide Hills Tempranillo** The mulberry nose carries a hint of licorice, and the palate is opulent, balanced by fine tannins. Good drinking. (\$30.00) ★★★★★

**2017 Calabria Family Wines Alternato Red Blend (durif, nero d'avola, montepulciano, shiraz)** The fresh, ripe, dark berry/baked plum nose has appeal, as does the succulent palate, with well integrated savoury tannins. (\$45.00) ★★★★★

**2019 Berton Vineyard Durif** A well made red designed for current drinking (no mean feat with durif). The mulberry/blueberry fruit is nicely balanced by fine, persistent tannins. (\$13.00) ★★★★★

**2018 Hickinbotham The Revivalist McLaren Vale Merlot** There's no question about the concentration of varietal flavour, but the skin tannins and oak give it a run for its money. Time is on its side. We'll see. (\$75.00) ★★★★★

**2016 Tim Adams Ladera Clare Valley Tempranillo** This wine expresses varietal character well. The summer berries have a hint of licorice and the savoury tannins are backed up by oak. (\$40.00) ★★★★★

**2019 Bleasdale Wellington Road Langhorne Creek GSM** There's a touch of Turkish delight on the nose of this plush, easy to drink blend. (\$32.00) ★★★★★

**2018 Calabria Family Wines Three Bridges Barossa Valley Grenache** It's not a hefty grenache, but there's some elegance here. The floral nose is distinctly varietal, but the finish is a little warm. (\$35.00) ★★★★★☆

**2018 Fat 'n' Skinny The Red Fury McLaren Vale Tempranillo Garnacha** A fresh simple red fruits/plum style with soft tannins. Drink now. (\$22.00) ★★★★★☆

**2018 Angullong Orange Region Sangiovese** A fresh, but fairly light, cherry/red berry style. (\$28.00) ★★★

**2018 Calabria Family Wines Three Bridges Barossa Valley Mourvèdre** A fresh red berry style with earthy, graphite overtones. The flavour fades quickly on the finish. (\$35.00) ★★★

**2017 Blue Pyrenees Estate Merlot** Shows a touch of development and is quite dry and minty. (\$28.00) ★★☆☆

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