

Barossa Shiraz

The Barossa Valley is the source of some of Australia's most highly regarded red wines. Buyers in Australia and overseas rate the Barossa as one of our key regions and are inclined to pay accordingly. The following wines were tasted "blind" by the Winewise panel in appropriate vintage groupings.

Generally speaking, the quality was high. The over-ripe, over-oaked style of red wasn't common in this tasting, and the freshness and intensity of the better wines indicates that great attention has been paid to viticulture and time of picking. That was the major story of the tasting apart from the startling number of wines under cork.

Here's how we see the current state of play when it comes to the Barossa Valley and its dominant red grape variety shiraz. Thanks to all the producers who supported our tasting.

The judges were Lex Howard, Lester Jesberg and David Yeates, with Harry McCabe as associate.



2017 Elderton Neil Ashmead Grand Tourer Barossa Valley Shiraz

Rich red fruits aromas merge beautifully with those of blackberry. Similar flavours flood a fine, long, satisfying palate that delivers the goods in all respects. An ideal each-way wine that can be enjoyed now and/or cellared for at least a decade. (\$50.00) ★★★★★

<https://eldertonwines.com.au/product/neil-ashmead-grand-tourer-shiraz/>

2017 John Duval Wines Eligo Barossa Shiraz

The fresh, powerful blackberry aromas are lifted by hints of aniseed and French oak. The opulent, silky palate invites drinking, but this wine can be successfully cellared for ten years plus. (\$98.00) Cork ★★★★★

https://www.wineministry.com.au/products/john-duval-wines-eligo-shiraz-2014-rrp-120?_pos=177&_sid=b83276372&_ss=r



2018 Head The Brunette Barossa Shiraz A fragrant, floral, dark berry style with an appealing touch of French oak. The stylish palate is long, firm and satisfying, without any heaviness. You can enjoy this wine now, but it's an excellent cellaring proposition. (\$65.00) ★★★★★

<https://headwines.com.au/products/the-brunette-2018>

2017 Elderton Command Single Vineyard Barossa Shiraz The powerful mixed berries nose carries some slightly toasty oak well. Savoury tannins match the rich, persistent flavour perfectly. Definitely one to cellar. (Not yet released) ★★★★★

2015 Yalumba The Octavius Barossa Old Vine Shiraz A fresh, ripe dark berry shiraz with nicely integrated oak. The intense, lingering palate is balanced by fine tannins. Another wine to keep. (\$150.00) Cork

★★★★☆

<https://www.yalumba.com/shop/premium-wines/the-octavius-shiraz>

2018 Peter Lehmann VSV Valley View Road Shiraz Rich and ripe, with slightly floral overtones. the freshness of fruit is very appealing, as is the seasoned oak. A tight, balanced package well worth cellaring. (Not yet released) ★★★★★

2019 Head The Blonde Barossa Shiraz An intense blackberry/dark cherry style with power, structure and poise. The tannins are fine and persistent, supporting the plush fruit beautifully. (Not yet released)

★★★★☆

2018 Kaesler Old Bastard Barossa Valley Shiraz Fresh dark cherry and berry aromas carry some oak, but carry it well. The palate is rich and mouthfilling, with balanced fine tannins. This is an expensive wine (current release \$250.00) but you certainly get quality for your money.

(Not yet released) Cork ★★★★★

2018 John Duval Wines Entity Barossa Shiraz Rich, ripe, quintessential Barossa. The classy oak shows out at the moment, but there's more than enough fruit to absorb it. Fine, lingering tannins. A stylish, well constructed wine. (\$50.00 - 2019 now available) ★★★★★

2016 Peter Lehmann Eight Songs Barossa Shiraz Intense dark and red fruits show on the nose together with a touch of oak. It's a rich, firm, but balanced, red that needs time to soften. (\$39.00) ★★★★★
<https://www.thewinecollective.com.au/products/2016-peter-lehmann-eight-songs-shiraz>

2014 Peter Lehmann Stonewell Barossa Shiraz Another good example of one of the Barossa's best-known wines. The colour is deep red and the fresh dark berry nose carries a hint of spice. The power and structure suggest that prolonged cellaring will be rewarded. (Not yet released) ★★★★★

2018 Penfolds RWT Bin 798 Barossa Valley Shiraz Red and dark berry fruit is matched by toasty oak. Although there's plenty of flavour, the oak features at this early stage. Patience is required. (\$169.00) Cork ★★★★★

2018 After Five Wine Co Single Vineyard Barossa Valley Shiraz An intense blackberry style with good oak integration. It's powerful, long and tight, with lingering tannins. Cellar. (Not yet released) ★★★★★

2018 Peter Lehmann Hill & Valley Barossa Valley Shiraz A powerful mixed berry style with just a touch of oak. Good depth of flavour for the price. (\$22.00) ★★★★★

2018 Purple Hands Barossa Valley Shiraz The fresh blackberry fruit is supported by subtle oak. A wine of substance - ripe, fresh, balanced. (\$30.00) ★★★★★

2018 Elderton Neil Ashmead Grand Tourer Barossa Valley Shiraz We thought we detected just a whiff of whole-bunch complexity which sat quite well with the bright red fruits and toasty oak. This is a fragrant medium-bodied style in which very fine tannins support the fruit. (Not yet released) ★★★★★

2018 Torbreck The Gask Eden Valley Shiraz An opulent red with all manner of berry aromatics and a little oak for good measure. Plush and satisfying. (\$75.00) Cork ★★★★★

2018 Orlando Printz Shed Northern Barossa Shiraz Fresh, rich, dark cherry, blackberry, spice. Good upfront fruit is backed up by moderate tannins. (\$35.00) ★★★★★

2017 Utopus Barossa Valley Shiraz The intense dark berry fruit has quite a bit of oak to deal with, but makes a good fist of it. A few years in bottle may well be all that's needed. A substantial Barossa red. (\$65.00) Cork ★★★★★

2015 Orlando Centenary Hill Barossa Valley Shiraz Fresh and intense dark berry aromas with obvious oak input. Has satisfying flavour, but is slightly too oaky. (\$75.00) ★★★★★

2018 Torbreck The Struie Barossa Shiraz A big ripe plummy style with some oak showing. The fine tannins contribute to the opulence of a satisfying palate. (\$75.00) Cork ★★★★★

2015 Yalumba Steeple Vineyard Light Pass Shiraz The fresh dark fruits compete with attractive toasty oak. The flavour persists on a long palate, although the oak shows through at this stage. (\$60.00) Cork ★★★★★

2018 Teusner Albert Barossa Valley Shiraz There's no shortage of regional flavour here. Layers of plum and dark berry merge with oak and hints of dark chocolate. (\$65.00) ★★★★★

2016 1847 Wines Old Vine Shiraz Powerful, fresh, blackberry/licorice aromas compete with those of oak which are slightly minty. A firm, solid style with plenty of rich flavour. (\$180.00) Cork ★★★★★

2016 1847 Wines First Pick Barossa Valley Shiraz Oak plays its part here too. The aromas and flavours tend more to red fruits than dark in a wine of substance. (\$420.00) Cork ★★★★★

2016 Chateau Yaldara Reserve Barossa Valley Shiraz The red fruits and spiciness share the stage with oak. Although the finish is firm, this wine has impressive weight of fruit. (\$50.00) ★★★★★

2018 Kaesler The Bogan Barossa Valley Shiraz Fresh, with floral and dark cherry notes belying the stated 15.0% alcohol. Oak is fairly prominent. Beginning to drink well. (\$55.00) Cork ★★★★★

2018 Head The Blonde Barossa Shiraz Ripe red fruits plus oak. Lots of flavour with a fairly firm finish. (\$50.00) ★★★★★

2019 Teusner The Wark Family Stonewell Shiraz Rich ripe blackberry. Substantial, but slightly overripe flavour. (\$30.00) ★★★★★

2018 Peter Lehmann The Bond Barossa Shiraz Fresh dark berry with a touch of oak. Plush, simple drinking. (\$25.00) ★★★★★

2018 Kaesler Alte Reben Shiraz Ripe dark berry aromas. Solid, with plenty of fruit and chewy tannins. Slightly pencilly overtone. (\$110.00) Cork ★★★★★

2018 Purple Hands Planta Circa Ancestor Vine Barossa Shiraz Fresh red fruits aromas and flavours. Subtle stemmy complexity. Beginning to drink well. (\$80.00) Diam cork ★★★★★

2016 Greenock Estate Growers Reserve The Family Barrel BV Shiraz Ripe red fruits. Middle of the road shiraz. (\$35.00) Cork ★★★★★

2016 Greenock Estate Barossa Shiraz Rich, ripe nose. Plenty of flavour. Chewy tannins (\$60.00) Cork ★★★★★

2017 Yalumba Paradox Barossa Valley Shiraz Fresh spicy red berry. Juicy and supple. Ready. (\$40.00) Cork ★★☆☆

2018 Teusner Big Jim Barossa Valley Shiraz Stacks of flavour at the very ripe end of the scale. (\$65.00) ★★☆☆

2017 Hemera JDR Barossa Valley Shiraz Big ripe nose. Substantial palate. Firm finish. (\$120.00) ★★☆☆

2010 Turkey Flat Barossa Valley Shiraz Red fruits with some maturity and oak. Fresh enough. Good structure but it's slightly short. (\$99.90) ★★☆☆

2012 Hemera Estate Single Vineyard Barossa Shiraz Quite ripe. Mature leather/earth overtones. Good sweet fruit with fine tannins. ★★☆☆

2017 Hemera Estate "H" Barossa Valley Shiraz Very fresh red fruits. Supple, reasonable length, medium-bodied. Fine tannins. (\$22.00) ★★☆☆

2017 Elderton Barossa Shiraz Perfumed fresh, light nose. Vibrant and balanced, but on the short side. (\$35.00) ★★☆☆

2015 Chateau Yaldara Reserve Barossa Valley Shiraz Rich dark berry and plenty of sweet oak. Good fruit and structure. Oak too prominent. (\$60.00) ★★★

2003 Greenock Estate GE Barossa Shiraz Mature colour. Aged oaky nose. Minty/Deep Heat aromas. Still has some sweet fruit. Tannins have softened. (\$150.00) Cork ★★★

2015 1847 Wines Pappy's Paddock Barossa Valley Shiraz Rich and ripe. Sweet oak overlay with slight coconut aroma. Good fruit but a bit too oaky. (\$60.00) Cork ★★★

2017 Teusner The Righteous FG Shiraz Fresh, ripe blackberry. Almost too ripe. Slightly furry tannins and a lash of oak balance a sumptuous palate. (\$160.00) Cork ★★★

2017 Rockford Basket Press Shiraz Bright, light colour. Lightish red fruits. Adequate weight. (\$75.00) Cork ★★★

2018 Peter Lehmann Portrait Barossa Shiraz Mulberry, cherry, spice. Ripe and ready. Fairly plain. (\$20.00) ★★★

2018 Teusner The Bilmore Barossa Valley Shiraz Fresh simple red fruits. Plenty of flavour. Firm, but balanced, tannins. (\$27.00) ★★★

2018 Kaesler Old Vine Barossa Valley Shiraz Ripe red fruits aromas with a touch of oak. The finish is a tad short. (\$90.00) Cork ★★★

2018 Utopus Barossa Valley Shiraz A hint jammy but retains enough freshness. A big ripe soft style showing some oak. (\$65.00) ★★★

2019 Whistler Shiver Down My Spine Barossa Valley Shiraz Fresh and slightly spicy but needs more length. (\$40.00) ★★★

2019 Whistler Thank God It's Friday Barossa Valley Shiraz Fresh ripe red fruits. Tight, not quite enough middle for the structure. (\$28.00) ★★★

2017 Sieger Estate Frederick Old Vine Range Barossa Shiraz Red fruits. Slightly vegetal touch. Medium-bodied. Fine tannins. (\$40.00) Cork ★★★

2018 Teusner The Riebke Barossa Shiraz Colour so-so. Ripe aromas and flavours. Fairly forward. (\$27.00) ★★★

2018 Yalumba Barossa Shiraz Colour slightly light. Dark cherry/red berry aromas. Forward, lacking fruit. (\$28.00) ★★★

2017 Charles Melton The Father In Law Barossa Shiraz Red berry characteristics. Strangely vegetal. (\$28.00) ★★★

2016 Angas King Barossa Valley Shiraz Ripe, plain. Vegetal hint. Enough fruit. Simple. (\$45.00) Cork ★★★

2015 Greenock Estate GE Barossa Shiraz Rich and ripe but slightly dull and jammy. Lacks freshness. Firm. (\$90.00) Cork ★★★

2016 Angas King Barossa Valley Old Vine Reserve Shiraz Big and over-ripe. Dull. Oak and aldehyde come in on the finish. (\$175.00) Cork★★

2019 ex-Pression Barossa Valley Shiraz Weak colour. Advanced. (\$30.00)★★

2016 Angas King Eden Valley Shiraz Ripe, simple. Quite dull. (\$45.00) Cork★★

2017 David Franz H.P. (Hydraulic Press) Western Barossa Shiraz Dull, advanced. (\$28.00)★★

2017 Hemera Estate Home Block Barossa Valley Shiraz Red berry characteristics marred by horsey overtones. (\$60.00)★★

2017 Hemera Estate Barossa Valley Shiraz Suggestion of farmyard. Drying finish. (\$40.00)★★

38% of wines under cork! We shake our heads in dismay.

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