

THE WINE DEPOSITORY

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EST. 2011

Yangarra

I've been selling a fair bit of their Noir. A Grenache for Pinot lovers kind of number. It comes from their estate vines. It is elegant, complex, and ready to drink. Three big ticks from me.

I knew they had special releases and have tasted a couple. But when the entry-level is so good and so ready to drink now, I was happy to let the top end go. I've had that at a few places where the 'entry-level' is so tasty that I forget how great the top level wines are too.

In the Halliday Wine Companion, Yangarra has earned Wine of the Year 2020 and Winemaker of the Year 2016. They sit with industry legends like Paringa Estate, Balnaves, Tyrrell's, Penfolds, Tahbilk, Mount Pleasant, Mount Mary... I could go on. You don't get this award for only making tasty quaffers.

And this year a couple of the top end Yangarra Wines caught my attention. Not just for one review, but for multiple reviews. And not just that they got high points. But what the reviewers are saying. Words like savoury, long, mouth-filling, fresh. These are all marks of world-class wine for me. I'll include the reviews below.

Yangarra make world-class wines. And two, in particular, are worthy of your attention.

Yangarra Ironheart Shiraz 2017

Block 15 is only 1.8 hectares. The team at Yangarra believe it grows the most profound Shiraz on their site. The bunches are carefully selected, picked, and sorted. At the end of production, the barrels that best reflect the ironstone characters of the soil form the blend. This is a long-term cellaring prospect.

\$118.00 – 11 bottles only.

Yangarra King's Wood Shiraz 2018

The 2.3ha Block 12 is the spiciest Shiraz grown on Yangarra. To accentuate the spiciness they use a large percentage of whole bunches. After wild yeast fermentation, the free-run wine ages in 2,500 litre French Oak 'foudre' for 15 months.

This is a spicy, elegant wine that packs a lot of flavour at only 13.5% alcohol! It's a wine to leave for 5-10 years for the best result.

\$58.00 – 3 bottles only.

Yangarra Estate Vineyard Noir 2018

Yangarra Noir is a blend of 40% Grenache, 21% Mourvèdre, 14% Shiraz, 12% Cinsault, 11% Carignan, 2% Counoise. It is a lighter, more fragrant style of red, in the style of a Cotes du Ventoux or Cotes du Rhone Rouge. Stunning complexity and a bit in the Grenache of Pinot lovers camp. Drink it now and over the next few years. Don't be afraid to lightly chill it over summer.

\$28.00 – No limit.

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Yangarra Ironheart Shiraz 2017 Wine Reviews

“MIKE BENNIE The Wine Front, 27 July, 2020

95 Points

This is beautiful, held to medium weight but with a cornucopia of spice an absolute and dominating feature. Garam masala, Chinese five spice, paprika in there and a dash of white pepper, it's hauntingly scented and flavours are fresh albeit doused in this souk. Ripe and dark fruit characters, a touch of rum n raisin, dried plum and earthy berries. Shale-like minerality here too. Magnificent length unfurling over layers of fine, silty tannin and cool, faintly herbal acidity. Shapeless but tight, lacy and yet stacked with flavour, this is such a great shiraz.”

“HUON HOOKE The Real Review, 3 July, 2020

93 Points

Very youthful, bold purple/red colour. The bouquet is smoky/char-oaky and slightly reductive, savoury, with traces of ironstone and graphite or coal-dust. Lots of character. The palate is full-bodied and youthful, fresh, bright and attractive. Chewy tannins persist long on the follow-through. A long-term keeper.”

“JAMES HALLIDAY James Halliday Wine Companion 2021, 1 August, 2020

99 Points

Hand-picked, 75% destemmed and berry-sorted, 25% whole bunches, wild-fermented, on lees in French oak (35% new) for 15 months then a barrel selection to showcase the characteristic ironstone it grows in. A magnificent wine with length to its stride and a lightness of foot.”

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Yangarra King's Wood Shiraz 2018 Wine Reviews

"ANDREW GRAHAM ozwinereview.com, 23 July, 2020

95 Points

Impressive flavour penetration for 13.5% alcohol is the immediate take away . Unforced and entirely delicious. It feels like it comes from cooler climates than McLaren Vale (I'm thinking Pyrenees or Coonawarra), the even-tempered purple fruit quintessentially ripe but with no desiccation or jamminess. The whole wine feels light on its feet. Vital. Unblemished by excess ripeness, oak or added acid, yet still full bodied and mouthfilling. McLaren Vale Shiraz made for me – I dip my lid. Probably worth even more points on balance alone."

"JAMES HALLIDAY James Halliday Wine Companion 2021, 1 August, 2020

98 Points

From the 12.3ha east-facing Block 12 on an ironstone sandy outcrop. Hand-picked, open-fermented with 25% whole bunches, matured in a 25hl French foudre for 15 months. Vivid crimson-purple through to the rim. An incredibly fresh wine that literally dances in the mouth, juicy streams of bright red flavours - this from '18, not a vintage known for delicacy. Fantastic bargain."

"NICK STOCK jamessuckling.com, 27 May, 2020

94 Points

An attractively floral edge to the nose with savory, terra cotta-like notes, leading to rich red berries and red plums. The palate is powerful and focused, showing some muscle behind the blackberries and red plums and sturdy, fine-tannin texture. Drink or hold."

"qwinereviews.com, 28 April, 2020

95 Points

Oh what a beauty! I'm drawn to this release more than the 2017 and that release was gorgeous in its own right. Stunning McLaren Vale Shiraz. A wine to embrace and keep close. Made with 25% whole bunches, it was wild yeast fermented with no pressings used before spending 15 months in Foudre. Certified organic and biodynamic. A little char initially, it's deliciously medium bodied. There's some punch here but it's with padded gloves. I'm captivated by the herby and savoury feels. That wonderful texture brings a calmness to it. I'm loving the width and that persistent length too. They just call you back time and time again. Blue fruits, dark berries and baking like spices all mesh together with ease. Silty tannins slide through but there's no escaping the soft, silky mouthfeel. Fabulous drinking. No one loses here. Drink to eight years+."

"MIKE BENNIE The Wine Front, 24 April, 2020

95 Points

Slippery, sleek and succulent shiraz of bouncy boysenberry fruit character, an undercurrent of sweet spice, some floral notes, very fine tannins and brisk acidity to cool it all down and finish it fresh. Very even, very medium weight, very flavoursome, indeed, quite remarkable intensity with all that freshness on hand. The fruit shines here – it's the hero and it's obvious. It makes you think about how grapes can achieve such multi-dimensional flavour, and that, there, is the art and delight of great wine for me."

"HUON HOOKE The Real Review, 23 April, 2020

96 Points

Deep red/purple, glass-staining, with a shy but deep bouquet, which is latent and full of promise. Underlying spices, a core of sweet ripe cherry fruit, the tannins soft and full on the finish, adding structure and length. Spices and graphite. A superb wine with a big future. Needs time for the full payoff."

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Yangarra Estate Vineyard Noir 2018 Wine Reviews

“JAMES HALLIDAY James Halliday Wine Companion 2021, 1 August, 2020

95 Points

It's impossible to bypass the southern Rhone Valley in writing about this wine with its blend of grenache, mourvedre, shiraz, cinsaut, carignan and counoise. Autosuggestion of course, but its ultra-fragrant bouquet crosses into that of the garrigue, the juicy palate bubbling with similar flavours. Such value.”

“CAMPBELL MATTINSON The Wine Front, 1 January, 2019

93 Points

It's a great wine to drink. Spicy, herbal, fragrant, a bit different, plenty of character, the fruit to carry it. Sparks fly. I guess you'd call it red fruited and medium bodied but that's just the start of things. You have to seek this out. It's got something.”

“RAY JORDAN The West Australian, 25 July, 2019

93 Points

This is a blend of lots of unusual varieties. There's grenache, mourvedre and shiraz and then there is cinsault, carignan and counoise. This is just stunning and a perfect example of some of the fascinating wines that these guys are producing. A wine you just want to keep gnawing at.”

“JAMES SUCKLING jamessuckling.com, 28 June, 2019

92 Points

This youthful 'village' red has a very vibrant, energetic and composed feel with abundant mulberry, blueberry and raspberry aromas that flow to a composed, spunky palate that has vividly appealing fruit. A blend of 40% grenache, 21% mourvedre, 14% shiraz, 12% cinsault, 11% carignan and 2% counoise. Drink now.”

“Mike Bennie, delicious.com.au, 6 June, 2019

A blend of six red grape varieties adds to this fresh take on easydrinking red wine, though you'll find more interest than expected with its layers of spice, bright fruit and crunchy texture. Drink with a light chill. Paired excellently with pork cutlets.”

“TONI PATERSON MW The Real Review, 19 May, 2019

91 Points

Taut and snappy with fabulous vibrancy. It is tight, youthful, and all about the fruit. A modern, high-energy style with a vibrant red-fruit core.”

“John Fordham, The Sunday Telegraph, 5 May, 2019

Winemaker Peter Fraser used no less than six varieties to craft this extremely palatable McLaren Vale red, with local favourite grenache having the greatest influence. Skillful blending is mandatory in such circumstances and Fraser has mastered this with aplomb. Medium-bodied, super smooth and a standout bargain.”

“Winsor Dobbin, ciaomagazine.com, 25 April, 2019

The wines from Yangarra are certified organic and biodynamic and are invariably deliciously quaffable. This is an unusual blend of no fewer than six different grape varieties that thrive in warmer regions like McLaren Vale; grenache, mourvedre, shiraz, cinsaut, carignan and counoise. The vibe here is decidedly Rhoney with open fermenting, plunging, wild yeast fermentation and 10 months on lees in older French oak playing key roles in a wine with serious savoury appeal.”

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“HUON HOOKE The Real Review, 17 April, 2019

92 Points

Deep purple/red colour with a coconut, slivered almond bouquet, fresh and bright. There's a stony terrestrial edge to it. The wine is medium-bodied and very dry but softly-textured, with abundant supple tannins and an aroma and flavour of dried banana. Medium-bodied, and very appealing. It's the antithesis of fruity. (Perhaps because it was fermented in concrete eggs?).”

“qwinereviews.com, 11 April, 2019

94 Points

It's only April and perhaps we've seen the bargain of the year. Wickedly juicy, one glass just isn't enough. The latest addition to the Yangarra Estate range, the brand's ongoing commitment to Rhone varieties has delivered this blend of Grenache, Mourvedre, Shiraz, Cinsault, Carignan and Counoise 40/21/14/12/11/2. Handpicked, 50% whole berries, wild yeast ferment with 100% old French oak for 10 months. Certified organic and biodynamic. Flirtatious and dancy, this is a wine that screams nothing but pleasure. Earthy with some funk, but it's the absolute shower of red and blackberry fruit that just oozes charm. Medium bodied, the generous flow of fruit caresses the mouth filling every crevice with ease. Super smooth with the slurp factor sky high, stop at nothing to buy as much as you can. Drink now to six years.”

“ANDREW GRAHAM ozwinereview.com, 8 April, 2019

94 Points

At the end of 2018 I made a wish-list of 3 things I'd like to see more of in 2019. And number 1 on the list was a request for more well-priced light reds. Now, 4 months into the year, I've found EXACTLY what I was after. This Yangarra Estate Noir 2018 is more than just a good value drink, however, it's a watershed wine. Something that can change perspectives about what Australian red wine should/could taste like. Amazing. It's a blend of 40% Grenache, 21% Mourvèdre, 14% Shiraz, 12% Cinsaut, 11% Carignan, 2% Counoise from estate-grown, certified organic fruit. So Chateauneuf, but in McLaren Vale. Fruit is hand-picked and mechanically sorted, with 50% whole berries in the mix, the juice wild fermented before spending 10 months in old oak. That's a lot of care and it shows in the finished product – the Noir is a perfectly pitched red. Only medium bodied, there's an absolute riot of raspberry fruit. Juicy, vibrant, utterly addictive red and blackberry fruit, in a soft, but not unsubstantial mode. It's plump. Generous. Softly spoken. Unadulterated. It's a joven style, but with more structure and much more intensity than your average light red. And so, so pure. How can you not like this? Sure, it's not going to cellar for decades. Nor is it a profound wine (the top Yangarra Grenache and Shiraz are more in that boat). But such profound drinking pleasure. And isn't that wine is about? Best drinking: Now to probably eight years plus. Would I buy it? In a heartbeat.”

“Michael Andrewartha, indaily.com.au, May 28, 2019

One of the most interesting projects we've been watching is over at Yangarra. They've planted most of the grape varieties of France's Chateauneuf-du-pape region, some of which I can barely pronounce, like Counoise (if you say something like “Coo-Nwah-z” that's about right). In 2018 they finally released something with all the red varieties blended together called “Noir”. Pete Fraser is the brains behind the winemaking – my parents also happen to be his godparents, but I think wine lovers with an unbiased view would agree his wines are incredible. This is fresh, lively and jam-packed with flavour, perfect for the introduction of winter and something braised.”

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