

Tasting Note



Best's Great Western Thomson Family Shiraz 1996

The Thomson Family Shiraz is produced from Henry Best's original 1866 Shiraz plantings, and only available in exceptional years, on average about six times a decade. The vines are cropped at less than two tonnes per acre (four tonnes per hectare) and are then meticulously hand-harvested, selected and sorted. Thomson Family Shiraz was first made in 1993, one hundred years after the Thomson family settled in the area. It is produced predominantly from the fifteen rows of vines planted by Henry Best, recorded as "Hermitage" by Henry in his daily journal. Today the clone is referred to by the CSIRO as the 'Concongella' clone and it is the mother clone of all subsequent shiraz plantings at Best's Great Western.

Thomson Family Shiraz is hand harvested, treated gently and fermented in small open fermenters and the wine is only produced in years when the quality is second to none. The Langton's Classification is "Outstanding".

Technical Details

Region	Great Western, Victoria
Grape Variety	Shiraz
Alcohol	14.0%
Winemaker	Simon Clayfield

Tasting Notes

Colour	Deep, dense, dark red colour
Bouquet	Ripe and generous fruit on the nose, deep dark berries.
Palate	Amazingly rich, dense and detailed layers of complexity with dark cherry and plum flavours. Medium bodied intensity with plenty of generous palate texture. A long and powerful finish with fine grain tannins.
Cellaring	12-25 years
Vintage	A low yielding year with grapes in fine condition.