



2001 THOMSON FAMILY SHIRAZ

State: The State of Victoria
Zone: Western Victoria
Region: Grampians
Sub-region: Great Western
Vineyard: Concongella, Great Western
Date Grapes Picked: 15th April
Fermentation: Cool
Date Bottled: 9th September 2003
Alcohol: 13.5% VOL
Production: 5040 bottles, 240 magnums
Winemakers: Viv Thomson & Hamish Seabrook
Cellar Potential: Excellent

Style: Heritage in a bottle, the Thomson Family Shiraz epitomizes all that is "Concongella" Great Western. Well balanced, the wine is rich, powerful, generous yet a very dignified aristocrat. Time in the bottle will tame the wine to a refined, silky elder statesman. A wine The Thomson Family is proud to carry their name. The wine is hand harvested, hand plunged and fermented in two tonne tubs and is only produced in years when the Thomson Family consider the quality second to none.

The Vines: The wine is produced predominantly (80%) from the fifteen rows of vines planted by Henry Best in the late 1860's, referred to as "Hermitage" by Henry in his daily journal. Today the clone is referred to by the C.S.I.R.O. as the Concongella clone and the mother clone of all subsequent plantings on Best's Great Western vineyards. The balance comes from Bart's Block, planted in 1966.

The Thomson Family: Fourth and fifth generation, Great Western district vignerons since 1893, the Thomson family have been the custodians of Henry Best's rich heritage of vines since 1920, a heritage they carefully nurture and maintain. They produce this wine only in select years - and considered to be the flagship of their enterprise.

Current Tasting:

Deep rich garnet, colour not showing much age.

Bright plum and prune, spices, cedar and pencil shavings with mushroom savouriness and a hint of oyster shell

Lively palate with velvety tannins, fresh acidity, and a long generous finish. Rich intensity yet delicate. Still youthful.