



For Immediate Release

Best's Releases Flagship 2012 Bin 0 & Thomson Family Shiraz

Bin 0 Shiraz produced from four vineyards around the old homestead

17 February, 2014. Great Western, Vic - Best's Great Western today released the 2012 vintages of Bin 0 Shiraz and Thomson Family Shiraz. These wines are grown, made, matured, bottled and dispatched within a 200 square metre area around the winery. This is true artisan, handcrafted and boutique winemaking on a small and high quality level. Both wines are only available in limited quantities and showcase the unique style of shiraz made at Best's for generations.

The Thomson family has been the custodian of the Best's vineyards and winery since 1920. Now led by fifth-generation Ben Thomson, the family's continuity brings unparalleled experience in the vineyards and Great Western climate. The wines have evolved over the years as vineyard technology has developed and as the current winemaker Justin Purser and previous winemakers at Best's have implemented winemaking improvements.

Henry Best planted the first shiraz vineyard at Best's in 1867 using cuttings from vines in the 'Nursery Block' and this particular clone of shiraz vine is now referred to by CSIRO as the 'Concongella Clone' or 'Best's Clone'. There are extensive vineyard plantings of this clone across many regions in Australia, renowned for its aromatic and mineral characters that speak of place. All Best's shiraz blocks are now planted with the 'Best's Clone' of shiraz.

[Read about the story of Shiraz at Best's in our ebook – XXXXX \(put link online\)](#)

2012 Vintage at Great Western Victoria

The season commenced with good winter rainfall that sustained the old dry-grown vines through the mild summer. They thrived in the ideal ripening conditions and revealed amazing lifted flavours as they got closer to harvest. Although yields were lower than average, the cool nights and warm days during the ripening season enabled the grapes to be picked at optimum ripeness. The grapes were hand harvested and hand sorted to remove any damaged berries and fermented in open vats to gently unveil the unique complexities of the vineyards. The 2012 vintage will be regarded as a classic vintage for Great Western and an outstanding one for Shiraz.

The Vineyards

Best's Great Western Bin 0 Shiraz is produced only from the four 'Estate' shiraz vineyards situated around the winery and old homestead. These four vineyards each bring their own individual expression of shiraz to create a consistent yet complex wine.

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Thomson Family Vineyard – the oldest shiraz vineyard at Best’s was planted in 1867. These dry-grown gnarled old vines yield tiny amounts of very intense dark fruit, with the complexity of flavour and aroma that only old vines can produce. In great vintages, some of this fruit goes into our Thomson Family Shiraz, with the rest used in Bin 0. The vines sit on the old creek bed of granite sands and the roots go down several metres into the bedrock of sandstone and schist.

1966 Block/Bart’s Block – this dry-grown shiraz vineyard is situated next to the old homestead and in a corner of the Concongella Creek which borders the Best’s vineyard on the north side. It was planted the year Hamish ‘Bart’ Thomson was born on alluvial granite soils intermingled with gravel. This block traditionally produces very intense and aromatic wines that form the backbone of the Bin 0 Shiraz blend.

1970 Block/Marcus’s Block – planted the year Marcus Thomson was born, this impressive shiraz vineyard of heavily trunked vines is planted north along the creek from the old Thomson Family Vineyard and traditionally provides some of the power in Bin 0. Strong and intense dark fruit flavours and peppery spice are hallmarks of the wines made from the 1970 block. The fertile alluvial loam over solodic clays provides the complementary ‘yang’ to the ‘yin’ of the 1966 block.

The Hill Shiraz Block – situated on the hill across the road from the winery, this vineyard has quite a different soil composition with the topsoil consisting of white gravels of quartz and granite over granite bedrock. This is also a common soil type found in the best syrah vineyards of the Northern Rhône in France. This vineyard produces extremely aromatic blending components and the peppery shiraz characteristics commonly found in the Grampians region.

It is with these distinct vineyards that Best’s is able to create a blend of shiraz that is a benchmark for the region and continues the tradition of one of the oldest and most recognised red wines in Victoria.

2012 Best’s Bin 0 Shiraz (RRP \$85)

Shiraz has been produced at Best’s Great Western since the late 1800s, although the actual date of the first Bin 0 Shiraz is unknown. On average, just 800 cases of Bin 0 are made each year. The fruit is hand selected, sorted and fermented in small batches and matured in the finest barrels in our underground cellar.

Bin 0 is made to be an age-worthy style and has been the undisputed icon of the Great Western shiraz style for many decades. It is internationally acclaimed as one of Australia’s great shiraz wines.

The esteemed *Langton’s Classification of Australian Wine* upgraded Bin No 0 Shiraz in Classification V 2010 from “Distinguished” to “Excellent” category.

“The Bin 0 Shiraz is the epitome of what is great about Great Western. Beautiful perfumed aromatics and delicious spicy dark fruit flavours are typically found in these wines. The natural balance of acidity and smooth rolling tannins make these wines easy to drink young but also ensure they drink extremely well after 15 years or more.” Justin Purser, Best’s Winemaker.

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2012 Best's Thomson Family Shiraz (RRP \$200)

The Thomson Family Shiraz is produced from Henry Best's original 1867 shiraz plantings, and is only available in exceptional years, production standing at about 300 cases. This wine is produced from the fifteen rows of vines planted by Henry Best, recorded as 'Hermitage' in his daily journal. The vines are cropped at less than two tonnes per acre (four tonnes per hectare) and are then meticulously hand harvested, selected and sorted and fermented in small open top fermenters.

First made in 1992 to celebrate one hundred years of the Thomson family settling in Great Western, the Thomson Family Shiraz is only made in years in which the fruit achieves outstanding quality. To date it has been released 12 times: 1992, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010 and this latest release the 2012. The Langton's Classification is "Outstanding".

"The gnarled old Thomson family vines have an x-factor. They produce grapes that are concentrated without being heavy and create wines with an ethereal level of complexity. In great years these wines stand up above anything else in the cellar." – Justin Purser, Best's Winemaker.

About Best's

Best's Wines was founded in Victoria's Great Western wine region in 1866 by Henry Best and bought by the Thomson family in 1920. Now run by the fifth generation (Viv Thomson's son Ben), Best's boasts some of the oldest shiraz vineyards in Australia and some of the oldest known pinot noir vines in the world. Best's Great Western wines are available in leading restaurants, fine wine retailers, Best's Great Western Cellar Door and online at www.bestswines.com.

For more information, tasting notes, bottle shots and to download Best's Press Kit, please visit www.bestswines.com/presskit or contact:

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