



## TASTING NOTE

# BEST'S GREAT WESTERN 2015 THOMSON FAMILY SHIRAZ



The Thomson Family Shiraz is produced from Henry Best's original 1867 Shiraz plantings, and is 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 1992, 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* or the *Best's Old Block clone* and it is the mother clone of all subsequent shiraz plantings at Best's Great Western.

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

The 2014 Thomson Family Shiraz was awarded the 'Wine Of The Year' for the 2017 Halliday Wine Companion.

### TECHNICAL DETAILS

**Region:** Great Western, Victoria

**Grape Variety:** Shiraz

**Alcohol:** 14%

**Winemaker:** Justin Purser

### TASTING NOTES

**Colour:** Deep dark red with a purple hue.

**Bouquet:** Closed at first, this wine takes time to reveal intense dark fruit aromas with an array of complexity including all spice, nori, black pepper, blueberries, rose petals, cedar and dark chocolate.

**Palate:** The essence of the vineyard is displayed with intense, yet vibrant medium bodied flavours of dark fruits and chocolate. A graphite minerality and savoury fine tannins linger in the mouth.

**Cellaring:** This wine needs time to reveal its true character, 5 - 20yrs+. This wine benefits from decanting 1 hour prior to serving. Try it with Beef Wellington and crispy potatoes baked in duck fat.

**Vintage:** A moderate season with no real hot spells. Very cool nights and warm days ensured the grapes ripened fully but retained all their natural acidity. Quality is very good, but crops were reduced due to the dry weather and spring frosts.



## AWARDS AND REVIEWS



**Langton's VII Classification of Australian Wine** – The Exceptional category comprises the most highly prized of all Australian fine wines. Reflecting the very best of the Australian aesthetic, each wine represents narratives of the imagination, generations of effort and character of place.

### **Australian & New Zealand Wines of the Year 2017 – Tyson Stelzer**

#### **The Top 20 Wines of the Year Over \$100**

Henry Best's original 15 rows of 1868 plantings yield just 300 cases of this deeply exotic shiraz, layered with black cherry and dark berry fruit and the exotic spice and supple tannins that can only come from grand, ancient vines. It propagates with exceptional persistence, at once full and complete and at the same time effortless and elegant. Profound.

Drink 2020-2030 / **Rating 97 Points.**

#### **Wine Genius**

Made from the combination of the original 15 rows of vines planted in 1868, this wine is incredibly perfumed with flavoursome fruit that's powerful yet light on its feet. Gentle winemaking has allowed the wine to remain as pure and refined as possible, with amazing depth and complexity of flavour.

Drink 2017-2030 **Rating 96 points**

### **James Halliday Wine Companion 2018 – 2015 Thomson Family Shiraz**

“Takes the keynote of intensity onto another level. Attention to detail in the vineyard throughout the growing season, and in the winery from the first juice to flow from the berries to the end of the bottling line are all reflected here. There is total fusion of complex fruits of licorice, spice and pepper sidelights, of fine, yet ripe, tannins that come from very old vines, and French oak, the texture running lengthways and sideways, but never breaking line. Old vine wines like this make a mockery of vintage charts.”

Drink 2020-2030 **Rating 98 points**

### **James Halliday's Top 100**

A total fusion of complex fruits, of licorice, spice and pepper sidelights, of fine, yet ripe, tannins that come from very old vines, and French oak, the texture running lengthways and sideways but never breaking line. Old-vine wines like this make a mockery of vintage charts. **Rating 98 points**

### **James Suckling Top 100**

This has the WOW factor on the nose with sweetly alluring spices and lighter fragrant fruits that are in the red cherry, red plum and blackberry zone. Satsuma plum and blackberry flavor holds impressively fresh and long. Really elegant, fine and juicy. Power and depth. Easily enjoyable now and will last to 2030+. **Rating 96 points**

### **The Real Review Huon Hooke**

Deep red/purple colour; the aromas are spicy, floral and vegetal: evidently whole-bunch fermented. There are charming floral and violet nuances. The palate is slightly flat in the middle, thanks to stalk tannins, and it seems to lack vitality. The tannins are slightly leaden; the aftertaste thick and chewy. It's good, but chewy, tannic and needs time. It will richly reward cellar time. Drink 2022-2050 **Rating: 95/100**