



TASTING NOTE

2019 THOMSON FAMILY SHIRAZ



The Thomson Family Shiraz is produced from Henry Best's original 1868 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 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 Thomson Family Shiraz was elevated to the highest and rarest Langton's Classification of "Exceptional" in the 2018 Classification VII. It is the only Victorian Shiraz in this category.

The 2014 Thomson Family Shiraz was awarded the 'Wine Of the Year' for the 2017 Halliday Wine Companion and the 2017 was awarded 99 points for the 2020 Wine Companion.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Region:	Great Western, Victoria
Grape Variety:	Shiraz -Picked 5 th March 2019 -Bottled 8 th October 2020
Alcohol:	14%
Winemaker:	Justin Purser

TASTING NOTES

Colour:	Very dark red, with a ruby hue
Bouquet:	Very closed to begin, but opens in time to reveal a tapestry of deeply scented aromas including plum skins, exotic spices, concentrated dark fruits, rose petals and grilled nuts
Palate:	Very rich although only medium bodied. It is broody then expansive, intense but round then focused to a first-class line and length.
Cellaring:	This wine needs time to reveal its true character, 5 - 30yrs+. Try it with slow cooked shoulder of lamb in a rich sauce.



AWARDS & REVIEWS

REVIEWS

JAMES HALLIDAY 2022 WINE COMPANION – August 2021

Best's remains at the top of its game because of wines like this; wines that hold true to the Thomson family's winemaking philosophy, celebrating old vines and its distinguished sites. It all comes together beautifully, perfectly, in Thomson Family Shiraz. Tasted 1 year before release and it's already an elegant and noble wine. Dark berry fruits, hints of sage and cassia bark with gentle leafiness. Oak and tannins, well, they are seamless and supple. A complex life awaits.

Rating: 96 points



Vintage:

A warm, dry growing and crops were lower than ensured the grapevines February rain gave the freshened them up before

season meant the vines ripened quickly average. Sufficient water supply remained in good health and some vines a well-deserved drink and the grapes were harvested.