



For immediate release

**Best's Releases 2014 Bin No. 1 Shiraz,
2014 Great Western Cabernet Sauvignon and 2015 Great Western Riesling**

1 Sep, 2015. Great Western, Victoria

Best's Great Western today released three of its popular Great Western wines: 2014 Bin No. 1 Shiraz, 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon, and 2015 Riesling. The Great Western range showcases the best attributes of the region in an accessible yet premium collection of wines with aromatic qualities within a medium-bodied framework. The continental climate means the fruit grown in Victoria's Great Western develops flavours slowly, building intense varietal aromas and characters. Best's popular Bin No. 1 Shiraz gives drinkers their first taste of the Great Western style in a cool-climate, aromatic wine.

2014 Best's Great Western Bin No. 1 Shiraz, RRP \$25

The 2014 expression of this elegant wine is distinctively Great Western. Its colour is red-magenta with a violet hue. There's an intense perfume of dried flowers, aniseed and blueberry, enveloped with notes of bitter chocolate, savoury spices and pepper. On the palate, smooth and succulent flavours of blueberry and plum travel alongside the fine-grained tannins and mineral acid. The core of lush fruit finishes with a dry savoury finish. Bin No. 1 is best consumed in the medium term (1-5 years) and comes to life with food.

Best's winemaker Justin Purser says, "Certainly 2014 will be a classic year, especially for Shiraz. The regional hallmarks are all there – spice, florals, blue fruits and that slurpy medium-bodied intensity on the palate."

2014 Best's Great Western Cabernet Sauvignon, RRP\$25

Best's Great Western Cabernet Sauvignon is a fine example of the regional style, showing rich, mocha and berry fruit with a solid mid-palate weight. The 2014 vintage is dense inky garnet in colour with a deep red hue. On the nose, briary fruits dominate with hints of tobacco, potpourri and redcurrants. Take a sip and notice the concentrated dark fruits, which are kept vibrant by the balancing acidity and powdery tannins. The finish is graceful and long. Enjoy this youthful wine with a slow-cooked lamb shoulder, or see it gain complexity over the next 5-20 years.

Justin Purser says, "Most of the Cabernet fruit ripened up beautifully, apart from a portion of the 13 Acres block that was affected by the early cold weather. This wine was made from the best blocks – it has a presence and concentration but remains lively and sits in the medium-bodied territory for Cabernet."

2014 Vintage at Great Western, Victoria

The season started very dry and cool, but no frosts affected the vines. The cold weather meant the vines had a long period of bud burst and flowering, which resulted in uneven growth and diminished yields but the vines evened out when the warmer weather came in December. The cool weather was soon forgotten when two weeks of 40+C days hit in January.

Best's was lucky to escape the bushfires that raged through the region and came within a few kilometres. Fortunately the wind changed and it blew the fire away to the north. As the vines and grapes were still in green vegetative state, the heat of the fires did not affect quality. In fact, it's believed that as the heat forced the vines into a dormant state, the ripening was prolonged into late autumn, which was beneficial for gaining complexity in the resultant wines.



2015 Great Western Riesling, RRP\$25

Riesling vines were first planted as part of Henry Best's Nursery Block vineyard in the 1860s. From subsequent plantings, Riesling has become a significant part of Best's range. Fast forward to 2015, and the Great Western Riesling is a blend of Best's own vineyards and grower blocks, and shows lifted aromatics (musky florals with mandarin and kaffir lime notes) and an edgy acidity that carries the palate. It has the typical fine lime, lychee-driven flavour of Great Western Rieslings, with a wisp of residual sugar for texture and a long steely finish. Great as an apéritif or with lighter food that requires zing to cut through for balance. This Riesling drinks well as a young wine, but with 5-20 years in the cellar, it will become a honeyed and beguiling drink.

Justin Purser says, "The 2015 season was kind as we saw no hot spots and regular even growth resulted. The cool nights (dropping down to as low as 5C) in autumn saw freshness and high natural acidity retained in the grapes at harvest. This was a good sign for Riesling – the elevated vineyard at Rhymney looked exceptionally good and produced very fine wine."

2015 Vintage at Great Western, Victoria

The 2015 season saw another dry and cool start in spring 2014. Spring frosts did affect several vineyards, especially at Concongella, and as a result of the cooler conditions at budburst during the previous two seasons, yields were very low. The vines eventually evened out, probably as the small amount of grapes meant they had little energy to expend on fruit so they put it into the leaves. Very cool nights and warm days ensured the grapes ripened fully but retained their natural acidity. Quality is very good, but crops were reduced due to the dry weather and spring frosts.

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 OAM'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. Justin Purser is the current winemaker at Best's Great Western. Best's Wines are available in leading restaurants, fine wine retailers, Best's Great Western Cellar Door and online at www.bestswines.com.au.

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